

## IS THE BIBLE THE WORD OF GOD?

INTRO: [Why this subject?]

Some People are unsure if the Bible is God's Word and others have no faith in the Bible.

Whatever you believe, it is always best to have proof as basis for what you believe.

This is especially true when we talk about important subjects....such as Being Right with God so that we can have assurance of Eternal Life with God BUT if one doesn't know how or where God communicates to us...there would not be much reason to have such a hope.

Therefore, this Lesson introduces & gives proofs on Why You can Believe the Bible is the Word of God

For the Bible says in Heb 11:1 that...Faith is the substance (ASV assurance) of things hoped for, the evidence (ASV conviction) of things not seen. KJV

The thought that is being expressed is that Faith is produced by an assurance of evidence and the thing hoped for primarily is Eternal Life with God (which is not physically seen). This is a description of what Faith is.

The Bible claims it is God's Word and gives us assurance that is so.

HOW can we have that assurance or Faith that this is so?

Rom. 10:17 Says Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God so in other words...Faith comes by hearing God's word.

God says that his people are to be able to have an answer for the hope we have as suggested in 1 Peter 3:15

Therefore, during this lesson I will Give some reasons why you can trust the Bible and have hope

This Lesson is going covers 3 Areas of Evidences.

1. Scientific Accuracy
2. Prophecies
3. Preservation of Bible

### I. Types of Evidence

1. **SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY** - Bible supports several scientific facts stated in non-scientific manner -True Science will not contradict the Bible. However, there some that assert things in the Bible that are beyond what you really can...be careful

A. God Hangs the Earth on Nothing -

**Job 26:7** He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.

- Doesn't seem significant but when look at when this Book was written 2000 to 950 BC
- Most Men believed that the Earth was rigidly support & All movement was in the heavens and wasn't until about 2500+ years later that man believed that the earth was held in orbit by attraction of the Sun

B. Water Vapor Cycle

**Job 36:27-28** For He draws up drops of water, Which distill as rain from the mist,  
28 Which the clouds drop down And pour abundantly on man.+

- Doesn't seem significant but this supports our idea of Water Vapor Cycle of water evaporating and returning by rain but this was written at least 600 to 1700 years prior to Aristotle the one 1<sup>st</sup> accredited with comprehending this cycle .

C. Lightning Causes Rain

**Job 38:25-26** "Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water, Or a path for the thunderbolt,  
26 To cause it to rain on a land where there is no one, A wilderness in which there is no man;

- This passage suggests that Lightning Causes rain

- It was not understood until about the 1960s that the electrical charges cause rain (story of Arnold)

#### D. All Flesh is Not the Same

**1 Cor 15:39** All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds.

- 1 Cor was written in the 1<sup>st</sup> AD
- Men didn't know this until 1930 before this most men thought all flesh was the same.

These are just a few examples of the many scientific accuracies/facts in the Bible before it was known by men. Few men have been successful of having even one proven true but the Bible has many.... and in several fields of science; such as, Astronomy, Geology, Oceanography, Meteorology, Physics, Biology and Archaeology.

## 2. PROPHECIES

### A. City of Babylon - 700 -600 BC and fulfilled by 1250 AD

#### BACKGROUND

1. Magnificent, prosperous, fertile, impregnable walls- 300 ft. high, 80 ft. thick, with a moat around it could stop any army
2. Hanging Gardens - considered 1 of the 7 wonders of the world

#### 6 PROPHECIES fulfilled over a period of 1700 years

- a. Become ruins and be perpetually uninhabited.
- b. Arabians wouldn't make camp there nor graze sheep there
- c. Wild beasts would live there
- d. Her stones wouldn't be used for other buildings (which was common then)
- e. Her exceedingly fertile valley would become a dry parched wilderness & desert

**Is 13:19-22; Jer 50:12-13; 51:26, 36,44**

#### STORY ON HOW IT HAPPENED

Prof. Stoner - recognizable authority in Math & Science - concluded that the science of probability ruled this out as being a coincidence because the probability was 1 in 5 Billion that the above would happen.

### B. City of Tyre - Prophecy 586 BC and fulfilled by 1300 AD

#### BACKGROUND

1. They were a rich and famous city of seafaring Phoenicians

#### 4 Prophecies fulfilled over 1800 years

- a. Many nations as waves of the sea would come against Tyre
- b. The walls & buildings would be torn down & cast into the water. All the stone, timber & even the soil to would be covered by the sea.
- c. The city site would be made a bare rock and be used as a place for the spreading & repair of fishing nets.
- d. The city of Tyre would no longer exist or be found.

**Ezekiel 26:3-5, 12, 14 & 21**

#### STORY ON HOW IT HAPPENED

Prof. Stoner - Probability of 1 in 75 million

Evidence is indisputable - can visit these sites today. There are many more prophecies & scientific evidence that hasn't been addressed and are just as convincing as the ones we talked about.

The probability of all the prophecies being fulfilled just like the bible says is almost beyond calculation.

Conclude: That there is a very intelligent being behind the writing of the bible---that Being has to be God because the probability of a person or series of people making these statements with no errors is improbable.

## 3. Preservation of Scriptures

### 3. PRESERVATION OF SCRIPTURES

A. On occasion, I hear people question the reliability of the scriptures based on idea that it has been copied many times over & over again and can't possibly be accurate and reliable because we don't have the originals. Let's consider that argument for moment....There are other ancient documents that people hold as reliable & accurate from the originals and we don't have the originals of those documents either BUT with a lot less evidence than we have with the Bible being reliable.

So long as we possess accurate copies of the originals, the absence of the originals is irrelevant per Historians.

No one alive today has ever seen the original copies of Romeo & Juliet or Plato's Republic or Homer (Iliad) but because it can be shown that the copies we possess are reliable reproductions of the originals, no one doubts that we have copies of these works as they were originally composed.

Is the bible a faithful copy of the original?

Historians Look at 3 Factors:

1. Time interval between original writing & earliest copy
2. The # of copies
3. Whether the copies agree in content

Let's compare the Homer Iliad vs. NT (see Chart)

Now isn't that odd that people accept Homer Iliad as accurate but not the bible.

When we look at the Textual variance of Bible it is over 98% pure and balance is of very little importance that their adoption or rejection would cause no appreciable difference in sense of the passages where they occur Per Ezra Abbot (Greek Scholar, used to be a Professor at Harvard Divinity). Most of the variances have to do with things like obvious slips of the pen, misspelling of words and things that are very easily understood at what the intention is.

Another question Scholars ask when evaluating an ancient document's reliability is the internal consistency of the document....does it disqualify itself because of contradictions?

When I first started studying the scriptures, I thought there seemed to be some...but instead found them to be Paradoxes.

By definition a contradiction exists only when there is absolutely no way to reconcile the 2 statements.

- If a plausible explanation exists, there is no contradiction....that is whether or not we like the explanation is irrelevant....so long as the explanation is logical & agrees with all known data, it cannot be said that a contradiction exists.
- For Example Healing of Bartimaeus is said to be healed after leaving Jericho in Matt 20 & Mark 10 while Luke 18 says he was healed before he entered Jericho. Seems like a contradiction.

Archaeology solved this apparent conflict: 2 Jericho's 1 Jewish & 1 Gentile

There are many more alleged contradictions that have been disproved but none have been shown to disprove any part of the bible. All potential contradictions still have a logical answer.

1 of the 3 Greatest Archaeologist, Nelson Glueck (Glek) has said that in all of his archaeological investigations he has NEVER found one artifact that contradicts any statement of the Bible.

**1 Peter 1:25**

25 But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

There have been many skeptics who have set out to disprove the Bible and many have been converted to believing Bible is the Word of God.

**CONCLUSION:**

We looked at some Scientific Facts/Accuracies, Prophecies that were fulfilled, Preservation of the Bible, Historical Facts and the Harmony of the Scriptures. **WHAT DO WE CONCLUDE?**

**IF EVERYTHING IS SHOWN TO BE ACCURATE, THEN THE BIBLE MUST BE RELIABLE, ACCURATE AND VALID.** Since the Bible claims to be God's Word there is no reason to doubt it.