

## CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE?

Prov. 30:5,6 - "Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. <sup>6</sup> Do not add to His words, or He will rebuke you and prove you a liar."

### I. I CAN TRUST THE BIBLE BECAUSE OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

Let's just focus on the documents we know as the books of the New Testament.

A. There are tests for the authenticity of any documents for historical reliability

1) Bibliographical – Does the document we have match the original writings?

Aristotle – of any one of his works there are only \_\_\_\_\_ MSS, and the oldest (closest to when he lived) is 1,400 years after his life.

For Caesar's Gallic War, we have only \_\_\_\_\_ reliable MSS, and the oldest is 900 years later than Caesar's day.

Herodotus is a historian who lived 488-428 BC. Everyone trusts his authenticity, yet we only have \_\_\_\_\_ copies of his MSS, and the oldest is 1,300 years after he lived.

New Testament: we have \_\_\_\_\_ different MSS of the NT documents – and some of the oldest (closest to the time) are within 100 years of Christ's life.

2) Internal test. What does it claim about itself? Is it claiming to be a myth? Does it claim to be history? The NT regularly tells us, "this really happened".

Luke 1:1-4 – I've written this so you can know the certainty of what you've been taught.

Paul said, "this wasn't done in a corner" – everybody knew about Jesus. John 10:35 – I'm telling you the truth.

In the OT, over \_\_\_\_\_ times it claims to come from God.

New Testament: II Peter 1:19 – 21 - We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

I Thess. 2:13 - <sup>13</sup> And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

### II. I CAN TRUST THE BIBLE BECAUSE OF HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

A. Other writers. Thallas; Pliny; at least 39 ancient sources outside of the Bible that tell us about the life of Christ, and 17 are non-Christian sources. They confirm \_\_\_\_\_ facts about His life, ministry, crucifixion and resurrection.

B. Archeology and history regularly and repeatedly confirm the Bible as Truth.

In Gen. 14 is a list of 10 Kings that attacked Sodom and Gomorrah.

Josh. 6:20 says that when the Children of Israel marched around the walls of Jericho, the walls "collapsed" – the word means "to fall down flat." It also says they burned the city with fire. Dr. John Garstang excavated the ruins of Jericho from 1929-1936. He found that indeed the walls had collapsed, much like from an earthquake. He also found much evidence of a major fire, with many houses burned to the ground.

John 5 talks about the pool of Bethesda – “we can’t find any pool with 5 pillars”.....then they did!

Don’t ever doubt God or the Bible because of some so-called “discovery” that seems to undermine the Bible.

I recommend Evidences that Demand a Verdict (Josh McDowell); Set Forth Your Case (Clark Pinnock) ; Protestant Christian Evidences (Bernard Ramm) as good reading materials in this field.

Sir William Ramsay began his career in archaeology as a confirmed skeptic. He believed that Luke and Acts were written late in the second century and were historically inaccurate. After working a lifetime in the field he concluded: "Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy, he is possessed of the true historic sense...in short, this author should be placed along with the greatest of historians."

The archaeologist, William F. Albright, said of the Bible: "Thanks to modern research we now recognize its substantial historicity. The narratives of the patriarchs, of Moses and the exodus, and of the conquest of Canaan, of the judges, the monarchy, exile and restoration, have all been confirmed and illustrated to an extent that I should have thought impossible forty years ago."

The archaeologist Nelson Glueck said, "as a matter of fact, however, it may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical descriptions have often led to amazing discoveries."

### III. I CAN TRUST THE BIBLE BECAUSE OF FULFILLED PROPHECIES

We’ll just focus on the prophecies about Jesus Christ.

There are 60 major prophecies in the OT that tell about the birth or life of the Person Who would be God’s Son. Many of these prophecies come from books written 700 years before Christ was born. And ALL of them were written at least 250 years before His birth – and He fulfills them all!!

But it’s not just enough to know the Bible is God’s Word. You must allow God to work through it in your life.

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

#### A. Profit of the Scripture

- 1) Doctrine (teaching) - what God \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Reproof/Rebuke - showing us our error – where we fall short
- 3) Correcting - helping us get back on track – to set something straight
- 4) Instruction - structured training – disciplined life-style

#### B. Purpose of the Scripture

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ – to be adequate/ to be in complete adjustment
- 2) Equipped – able to do what God has for you.