

Can We Trust the Bible?

God's Word: Is it trustworthy?

Adapted from:

www.executableoutlines.com

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Can We Trust the Bible?



I believe that God speaks to us because people and animals are able to communicate.



If animals and people can communicate, why not God with mankind?

Can We Trust the Bible?



I believe in the Bible's credibility because I see healing in the plant and animal world.



We have healing of limbs, cures of diseases, etc.



This shows that God cares about the world He has made.

Can We Trust the Bible?



The Bible has shown a fabulous ability to survive.



Most books never survive over 25 years, fewer over a century, and a very small amount last over 1,000 years. This shows the Bible's uniqueness.



When you look at the conditions and persecutions that the Bible has gone through, its longevity is amazing.

Can We Trust the Bible?



It is an amazing book in that it is still read by millions of believers around the world.



It has been translated into hundreds of languages.

Can We Trust the Bible?



The Bible contains the revelation and embodiment of God.



It shows how we got here, shows man's fall, God's sovereign rule, God's plan for salvation, and sets forth the future of mankind.

Can We Trust the Bible?



The Bible is a unified book.



Even though written by some 40 different authors over 1600 years, it is one book.



It's doctrine, moral standard, plan of salvation, and program for the ages are all unified.

Can We Trust the Bible?



No man could have set forth to write such a harmonious book.



If they could have written such a book, then we would have another Bible.



Only God could have written such a unified book.

Can We Trust the Bible?



No other book has benefited mankind more with its answer to sin and the hope & promises it provides.



We can find great comfort and reassurance every time we read it.

Can We Trust the Bible?



The Bible contains fulfilled prophecy.



God's fulfilled predictions of future events shows it's a divine book.




No other book or books combined, show fulfilled prophecy like the Bible.



These prophecies concerned Israel, Gentile nations, individuals, and of course, Christ.

Can We Trust the Bible?

 In the O.T. the Bible conveys the message of God's words using phrases such as "The Lord said," "Thus says the Lord," "Now the Lord said to", etc.

 These kinds of phrases are used over 3,800 times in the Old Testament showing God actually speaking to these people.

Can We Trust the Bible?



Over 500 times, the N.T. authors claim to give the message of God.



1 Cor.14:37; 1 Thess.2:13; Gal.1:8; 1 John 5:10;
2 Pet.3:2; Heb.2:1-4

Can We Trust the Bible?



Moses' writing in the Pentateuch are very credible.



He was a witness of many events as well as being given credibility throughout the Bible by other writers as well as Jesus Christ.

Can We Trust the Bible?



Jesus Christ recognized and spoke of the Old Testament's credibility.

Can We Trust the Bible?



History and archaeology provide many proofs of the biblical characters, events, and dates of the Bible.

Can We Trust the Bible?



In many cases, the N.T. writers were eyewitnesses to Christ's miracles, fulfilled prophecies, life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

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The N.T. writers were honest, believing what they wrote.



Their belief cost them their social standing, material possessions, and even their lives.

Can We Trust the Bible?



The Gospels harmonize with each other.



They don't contradict but supplement information.



Even the so called differences in the Gospels have been proven valid and show that the four gospel writers did not collaborate but gave four valid versions.

Can We Trust the Bible?



The New Testament writer's accounts harmonize with historical figures.



Peter puts the epistles of Paul as an equal with the rest of the scriptures (2 Peter 3:15).



Paul declares the whole Old Testament to be inspired in 2 Timothy 3:16.

Can We Trust the Bible?



Men throughout the Bible testify to their sinfulness: David with Bathsheba, Moses killing an Egyptian, Jonah running from God and being vomited on the shore, etc.



Men would never write these kinds of things about themselves.



It shows that the book was God-inspired.

Can We Trust the Bible?



The Bible was written by people from different time periods, social standings, and backgrounds.



Yet the unity, literary expertise, and wonder of it is amazing.

Can We Trust the Bible?



The Bible is divine in that it lends itself to translation.



It has been translated in whole or in part into over 1,000 languages and dialects.



Truly a divine book.

Can We Trust the Bible?



The total account of N.T. manuscripts is now around 5,000 with a 99+% accuracy of copy.



No other book from history compares to it.

Can We Trust the Bible?

Adapted from:
www.executableoutlines.com/

Can We Trust the Bible?

1. Regarding Textual Evidence: For the Old Testament

1. The Massoretic Text (900 A.D.)

a. Earliest complete text of Hebrew OT, copied by Jewish scribes called the Massorettes.

If we compare with earlier Greek and Latin versions they have:

1) very careful copying

2) little deviation during the thousand years from 100 B.C. to 900 A.D.

Can We Trust the Bible?

1. Regarding Textual Evidence: For the Old Testament

2. The Dead Sea Scrolls (150 B.C. - 70 A.D.)

- a. Discovered in 1947, containing copies of OT books dating back to 100 B.C.**

- b. Compared with the "Massoretic Text" of 900 A.D., they confirm the careful copying of Jewish scribes for over 1000 years!**

Can We Trust the Bible?

1. Regarding Textual Evidence: For the Old Testament

3. The Septuagint version of the OT (200 B.C.)

- a. A Greek translation of the OT, done in 200 B.C. by 70 scholars**

- b. It also confirms the accuracy of the copyists who gave us the Massoretic Text**

Can We Trust the Bible?

1. Regarding Textual Evidence: For the Old Testament

In his book, Can I Trust My Bible,
R. Laird Harris concluded,

"We can now be sure that copyists worked with great care and accuracy on the Old Testament, even back to 225 B.C....Indeed, it would be rash skepticism that would now deny that we have our Old Testament in a form very close to that used by Ezra when he taught the word of the Lord to those who had returned from the Babylonian captivity."

Can We Trust the Bible?

2. Regarding Textual Evidence: For the New Testament

1. The number of the manuscripts

- a. Over 4,000 Greek manuscripts**
- b. 13,000 copies of portions of the N.T. in Greek**

Can We Trust the Bible?

2. Regarding Textual Evidence: For the New Testament

2. The location of the manuscripts

a. Found in various places:

Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Turkey, Greece, Italy

b. Making collusion very difficult (not one church or religion contains them all)

Can We Trust the Bible?

2. Regarding Textual Evidence: For the New Testament

3. The date of the manuscripts

- a. Several papyri fragments have been dated to within 50-100 years of the original**
- b. We have several nearly complete N.T. Greek manuscripts within 300-400 years**
 - 1) Codex Sinaiticus, found near Mt. Sinai**
 - 2) Codex Alexandrinus, found near Alexandria in Egypt**
 - 3) Codex Vaticanus, located at the Vatican in Rome**

Can We Trust the Bible?

2. Regarding Textual Evidence: For the New Testament

4. The variations of the manuscripts

- a. The vast majority are very minor with modern translations often noting them in footnotes (spelling, differences in phraseology, etc.)**

- b. Only 1/2 of one percent is in question (compared to 5 percent for the Iliad)**

Can We Trust the Bible?

2. Regarding Textual Evidence: For the New Testament

Even then, it can be stated:

"No fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith rests on a disputed reading...It cannot be too strongly asserted that in substance the text of the Bible is certain: especially is this the case with the New Testament." Sir Frederick Kenyon

(authority in NT textual criticism)

Can We Trust the Bible?

2. Regarding Textual Evidence: For the New Testament

5. Other translations of the manuscripts

- a. More than 1,000 copies and fragments in Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, Gothic, Ethiopic**

- b. 8,000 copies of the Latin Vulgate, some almost dating back to Jerome's original translation (400 A.D.)**

Can We Trust the Bible?

2. Regarding Textual Evidence: For the New Testament

6. Writings of the early "church fathers" (100-400 A.D.)

- a. Early religious leaders who left 1000s of quotations of the NT in their writings**

- b. Even if all the NT manuscripts and translations were to disappear, it would be possible to reconstruct the NT from their quotations, with the exception of 15-20 verses**

Can We Trust the Bible?

2. Regarding Textual Evidence: For the New Testament

The evidence is sufficient to show that the Greek text of the New Testament has been faithfully preserved, without the possibility of collusion or corruption by any one religious party or faction.

Can We Trust the Bible?
Beware of Translations by one individual

**1. Some translations are the work of one person;
for example:**

**a. The Living Bible, by Kenneth Taylor, which is not
really a translation, but a paraphrase**

Can We Trust the Bible?
Beware of Translations by one individual

2. Though well intentioned, such translations often:

a. Express the views of one person

b. Convey the theological bias of that individual

Can We Trust the Bible?
Beware of Translations by one individual

- 3. It is best to find translations produced by a committee of scholars**
 - a. With often hundreds of experts in Hebrew and Greek**
 - b. Who examine and critique each other's work in the translation**

Can We Trust the Bible?
Beware of Translations by one Denomination

**1. Some translations are the work of one religious group;
for example:**

**a. The New World Translation produced by Jehovah's
Witnesses**

Can We Trust the Bible?
Beware of Translations by one Denomination

2. Such translations are often slanted to prove doctrines favorable to the group
 - a. E.g. the NWT translation of John 1:1-2 ("the Word was a god")
 - b. E.g. the NWT translation of Colossians 1:16-17 (inserting the word "other" four times)

Can We Trust the Bible?
Beware of Translations by one Denomination

- 3. It is better to find translations produced by representatives from different backgrounds**
 - a. Who are members of different religious organizations**
 - b. Who check each other's work to prevent theological bias**

Can We Trust the Bible?

Recommended English Translations

1. King James Version (KJV)

- a. A classic, somewhat archaic, although amazingly accurate.**
- b. Many people have problems with or misunderstand the old English**

2. New King James Version (NKJV)

- a. An updated KJV, desiring to preserve the beauty of the KJV**
- b. Very easy to read**

Can We Trust the Bible?
Recommended English Translations

3. American Standard Version (ASV)

- a. Most literal to the Greek, but therefore harder to read (almost out of print)**

4. New American Standard Bible (NASB)

- a. An update to the ASV (often wordy)**

Can We Trust the Bible?

Recommended English Translations

5. Other translations useful as references:

- a. New International Version (NIV) - easy to read, but prone to theological bias**

- b. New American Bible (NAB) – Catholic approved, useful to show doctrine differences are not due to translations**

Can We Trust the Bible?

Conclusion

- 1. Can we trust the Bible? Yes, because...**
 - a. The Hebrew and Greek manuscripts (though copies) have been providentially preserved**
 - b. Translations are available that are free from theological bias**

Can We Trust the Bible?

Conclusion

- 2. Yes, it is possible to have confidence in the Bible, that it...**
 - a. Contains the Scriptures as they were originally written**
 - b. Can be read without fear that it has been tainted to support a particular church or doctrine**

Can We Trust the Bible?

Conclusion

We can trust the Bible...do you?

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (James 1:21-22)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

1. The Bible consists of 66 books...

Old Testament contains 39

New Testament contains 27

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its OT Canonicity?**

2. Why these 66 books & not others?

a. What about the additional books in OT Catholic versions?

b. What about the so-called "lost books" of the Bible?

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

- 3. Such questions pertain to the canonicity of the Bible...**
 - a. The word "canon" means a rule or standard for anything**
 - b. For early Christians, it meant the rule of faith, what is accepted as authoritative Scripture**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

4. The inclusion of any book into the canon follows two basic steps...

- a. Inspiration by God - God determined the canon by co-authoring it**

- b. Recognition by men - Man recognized what God revealed and accepted it as the canon**

"A book is not the Word of God because it was accepted by the people, it was accepted by the people because it was the Word of God."

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

A. Recognized By Jesus...

So why 66 books and not others?

Let's consider the question relating to the OT...

- 1. Anyone who accepts the authority of Jesus will accept what He acknowledged as Scripture**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

A. Recognized By Jesus...

a. Jesus pointed people to the Scriptures

You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, (John 5:39)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

A. Recognized By Jesus...

b. Jesus spoke of the faithfulness of Scripture

If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken—

(John 10:35)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

A. Recognized By Jesus...

2. Jesus recognized “3” major divisions of the OT,
which included 39 books

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was
still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is
written about me in

the Law of Moses,

the Prophets

and the Psalms."

(Luke 24:44)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

A. Recognized By Jesus...

2. Jesus recognized “3” major divisions in OT, (39 books)

a. The Law of Moses (Torah): five books of Moses

(Genesis - Deuteronomy) (5)

b. The Prophets (Nebhiim):

“the former prophets” (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings) (4)

“the latter prophets” (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and a book with the 12 minor prophets). (15)

c. The Psalms or Writings (Kethubhim):

three poetical books (Psalms, Proverbs, and Job), (3)

five rolls (Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Esther, Ecclesiastes), (5)

historical books (Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles) (4)

NOTE: There are “36” here.

Now, “39” (1/2 Samuel, 1/2 Kings, 1/2 Chronicles)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

A. Recognized By Jesus...

2. Jesus recognized “3” major divisions of the OT, which included 39 books

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in

the Law of Moses,
the Prophets
and the Psalms."
(Luke 24:44)

- a. The Law of Moses (Torah): (5)
- b. The Prophets (Nebhiim): (21)
- c. The Psalms or Writings (Kethubhim): (13)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

A. Recognized By Jesus...

SIDE NOTE: Proofs that God spoke to Moses and had him write the Pentateuch

Exodus 24:4, “Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said.”

Exodus 31:18, “When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God”.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

A. Recognized By Jesus...

SIDE NOTE: Proofs that God spoke to Moses and had him write the Pentateuch

Exodus 32:16, “The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.”

Numbers 33:2, “At the Lord’s command Moses recorded the stages in their journey.”

Deut.31:24, “After Moses finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end.”

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

A. Recognized By Jesus...

3. Jesus followed the arrangement of the OT books that was customary among the Jews

a. We see this from His comments in Luke 11:

Because of this, God in his wisdom said,

'I will send them prophets and apostles,

some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.'

Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all. (Luke 11:49-51)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

A. Recognized By Jesus...

3. Jesus followed the arrangement of the OT books that was customary among the Jews
 - b. There he speaks of the persecution of the prophets from the murder of Abel (Genesis 4:8) and to the slaying of Zechariah (2 Chronicles 24:20-21)
 - c. This arrangement is the one that is followed in the Hebrew OT today also

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

A. Recognized By Jesus...

4. "Jesus does not quote from every book of the Old Testament, but he does quote from all three of the main divisions, showing that he accepted the entire Old Testament as canonical."

Wilbert R. Gawrisch (How The Canonicity Of The Bible Was Established)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

B. Recognized By The Apostles....

1. Paul acknowledged the Hebrew canon

a. As written for our learning

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

B. Recognized By The Apostles....

1. Paul acknowledged the Hebrew canon

b. As written for our admonition

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. (1 Corinthians 10:11)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

B. Recognized By The Apostles....

1. Paul acknowledged the Hebrew canon

c. As profitable for doctrine, etc.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

B. Recognized By The Apostles....

2. The apostles frequently quoted from those books in the Hebrew canon

a. In their gospels

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" —which means, "God with us." (Matthew 1:22-23)

Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." (Matthew 2:17-18)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

B. Recognized By The Apostles....

2. The apostles frequently quoted from those books in the Hebrew canon

b. In their efforts to evangelize

As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said. (Acts 17:2-3)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

B. Recognized By The Apostles....

2. The apostles frequently quoted from those books in the Hebrew canon

c. In their epistles

What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; (Romans 3:9-10)

What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." (Romans 4:3)

For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." (1 Peter 2:6)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

I. The Hebrew Canon

B. Recognized By The Apostles....

It is evident that Jesus and His apostles accepted the authority (canon) of the Hebrew scriptures which include the 39 books in the Old Testament.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

A. THE APOCRYPHA DESCRIBED...

1. These books written after Malachi (400 B.C), prior to Jesus' coming.
- 2 These books include:
 - a. The Wisdom of Solomon (30 B.C.), known as the Book of Wisdom
 - b. Ecclesiasticus (132 B.C.), also known as Sirach
 - c. Tobit (200 B.C.)
 - d. Judith (150 B.C.)
 - e. 1 Maccabees (110 B.C.)
 - f. 2 Maccabees (110 B.C.)
 - g. Prayer of Azariah (100 B.C.) placed as Daniel 3:24-90
 - h. Susanna (100 B.C.) placed as Daniel 13
 - i. Bel and the Dragon (100 B.C.), placed as Daniel 14
 - j. Baruch (150-50 B.C.), placed as Baruch 1-5
 - k. Letter of Jeremiah (300-100 B.C.) placed as Baruch 6
 - l. Additions to Esther (140-130 B.C.), placed as Esther 10:4-16:24
 - m. 1 Esdras (150-100 B.C.), also known as 3 Esdras
 - n. 2 Esdras (150-100 B.C.), known as 4 Esdras
 - o. Prayer of Manasseh (100 B.C.)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA ACCEPTED...

1. The Council of Trent accepted the Old Testament Apocrypha as canonical in 1546
 - a. With the exception of 1 and 2 Esdras and the Prayer of Manasseh
 - b. While there are 15 total books in the Apocrypha, Roman Catholic Bibles count only 11 because they combine the Letter of Jeremiah with Baruch and omit 1 and 2 Esdras and the Prayer of Manasseh
 - c. The teaching of 2 Esdras 7:105 in opposition to prayer for the dead may have led to its exclusion by the Roman Catholic Church

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA ACCEPTED...

- 2. Reasons suggested for the Old Testament Apocrypha as Scripture include:**
 - a. Some church fathers accepted these books (Irenaeus, Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria)**
 - b. The Syriac church accepted them in the fourth century**
 - c. The Eastern Orthodox church accepts them**
 - d. The Roman Catholic Church proclaimed them as canonical in 1546**
 - e. The Apocrypha was included in Protestant Bibles, including the original KJV of 1611**
 - f. Some have been found among other OT books with the Dead Sea Scrolls**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA REJECTED...

- 1. Jesus and His apostles did not accept these books as part of the Scripture**
 - a. There are no NT references to any of the Apocrypha as being authoritative**
 - b. The NT writers quote not one part of the Apocrypha**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA REJECTED...

2. Judaism never accepted these books as part of Scriptures
 - a. Ancient Jewish leaders specifically rejected the Apocrypha (Josephus, Philo)
 - b. While included in the Septuagint (Gr. OT), they were never accepted as canonical
 - c. The New American Bible, the new Catholic translation, in a footnote to the Story of Susanna and Bel and the Dragon frankly admits: "They are excluded from the Jewish canon of Scripture..."

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA REJECTED...

- 3. While a few early church leaders appear to take some material from them, most were opposed to the inclusion of the Apocrypha into the canon of Scripture (Athanasius, Cyril of Jerusalem, Jerome, Origen)**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA REJECTED...

4. The Apocrypha itself recognizes our OT canon as a distinct twenty-four books, which corresponds to the Hebrew Bible as known today
 - a. In 2 Esd 14:44-48, 70 books are distinguished from 94, leaving 24, or the exact number of the Hebrew canon, which became our 39 OT books
 - b. Not only does the Apocrypha not claim inspiration for itself, it actually disclaims it when 1 Mac 9:27 describes an existing cessation of prophecy

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA REJECTED...

- 5. They include unbiblical teaching, such as praying for the dead (2 Mac 12:46)**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA REJECTED...

6. They contain demonstrable errors; for example:
 - a. Tobit was supposedly alive when Jeroboam led his revolt (931 B.C.)
 - b. He was still living at the time of the Assyrian captivity (722 B.C.)
 - c. Yet the Book of Tobit says he lived only 158 years - Tob 1:3-5; 14:11

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA REJECTED...

7. The first official adoption of the Apocrypha by the Catholic Church came at the Council of Trent in 1546, over 1,500 years after the books were written

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA REJECTED...

8. When the Apocrypha appeared in Protestant Bibles:

- a. It was normally placed in a separate section since it was not considered of equal authority
- b. Luther put the Apocrypha in his German Bible, but introduced them with the comment, "These are books that are not to be considered the same as Holy Scripture, and yet are useful and good to read."

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA REJECTED...

- 9. No Greek manuscript contains the exact collection of the books of the Apocrypha as accepted by the Council of Trent**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA REJECTED...

10. While the Syrian church accepted the Apocrypha in the fourth century, the translation of the Bible into Syrian in the second century A.D. did not include it

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA REJECTED...

- 11. The Qumran community had hundreds of books in its library beyond the Scriptures**
 - a. While the library had some of the Apocrypha, it did not have commentaries on the Apocrypha it did with OT books**
 - b. The OT books had special script & parchment, unlike the Apocrypha**
 - c. Qumran clearly considered the Apocrypha as different from Scripture**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA REJECTED...

Conclusion

- 1. While the Apocrypha of the OT may be of historical value and in some ways supplement God's truth, they are not canonical**
- 2. Those who accept the authority of Jesus and His apostles will be content with those books found in the Hebrew OT**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA REJECTED...

3. In one sense, the issue might be regarded as irrelevant...

a. The Apocrypha relates to the OT

b. Christians are under the New Covenant of Christ, not the Law of Moses

But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code. (Romans 7:6)

You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. (Galatians 5:4)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its OT Canonicity?

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

B. THE APOCRYPHA REJECTED...

c. Therefore we are to continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine

**They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
(Acts 2:42)**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

Introduction:

- 1. We are examining the canonicity of the Bible...**
 - a. The word "canon" means a rule or standard for anything**
 - b. For early Christians, it meant the rule of faith, what is accepted as authoritative Scripture**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

Introduction:

- 2. Our previous study considered the canonicity of the Old Testament...**
 - a. Why Christians accept the Hebrew canon as Scripture**
 - b. Why the Old Testament Apocrypha is not accepted as Scripture**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

Introduction:

- 3. The canon of the New Testament is more universally accepted...**
 - a. Its 27 books are viewed as Scripture by both Catholics and Protestants**
 - b. Though other books (over 300) have been proposed by some as Scripture**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

Introduction:

4. This naturally raises some questions...

a. Did the early church acknowledge its own canon (Scriptures)?

b. If so, upon what basis were some writings accepted and others not?

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

I. The Recognition Of The NT Canon

A. Early Church Adopted Apostolic Writings As Canonical..

1. They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine

**They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
(Acts 2:42)**

I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. (2 Peter 3:2)

But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. (Jude 17)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

I. The Recognition Of The NT Canon

A. Early Church Adopted Apostolic Writings As Canonical..

2. They received their words as the Word of God

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. (1 Corinthians 14:37)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

I. The Recognition Of The NT Canon

A. Early Church Adopted Apostolic Writings As Canonical..

3. Paul quoted the gospel of Luke as Scripture

For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." (1 Timothy 5:18)

Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. (Luke 10:7)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

I. The Recognition Of The NT Canon

A. Early Church Adopted Apostolic Writings As Canonical..

4. Paul's letters were designed to be circulated among the churches

After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea. (Colossians 4:16)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

I. The Recognition Of The NT Canon

A. Early Church Adopted Apostolic Writings As Canonical..

5. Peter equated Paul's letters with "Scripture"

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. (2 Peter 3:15-16)

-- The church accepted the apostles' writings because to accept their teaching was to accept Jesus Himself –

“I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.” (John 13:20)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

I. The Recognition Of The NT Canon

B. The Criteria For Accepting A Book As Canonical...

- 1. Written by an apostle (e.g., Matthew, John, Paul, Peter)**
 - 2. Written by a close associate of an apostle (Mark, Luke, James, Jude)**
- Thus the writing had to be "apostolic" in addition to "showing evidence of inspiration"**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

I. The Recognition Of The NT Canon

C. When An Apostolic Writing Was Considered As Scripture..

1. It was read publicly

I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers. (1 Thessalonians 5:27)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

I. The Recognition Of The NT Canon

C. When An Apostolic Writing Was Considered As Scripture..

2. It was circulated widely

After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea. (Colossians 4:16)

which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

(Revelation 1:11)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

I. The Recognition Of The NT Canon

C. When An Apostolic Writing Was Considered As Scripture..

3. Copies of it were collected

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. (2 Peter 3:15-16)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

I. The Recognition Of The NT Canon

C. When An Apostolic Writing Was Considered As Scripture..

4. It was often quoted in other writings

For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." (1Timothy 5:18)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

I. The Recognition Of The NT Canon

D. Books Accepted As Canonical By All Christians...

- 1. Include the 27 books of our NT**
- 2. Most books were acknowledged from the very beginning**
 - a. Seven books (Hebrews, James, 2nd Peter, 2nd & 3rd John, Jude, Revelation) were disputed by some at first, but eventually accepted as authentic and apostolic**

Thus all professing Christians accept the 27 books of the New Testament as canonical.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

II. The Pseudepigrapha

A. Brief Description...

1. Otherwise called "false writings"
2. There are over 280 of these writings
3. More than 50 are accounts of Christ

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

II. The Pseudepigrapha

A. Brief Description...

4. The more well-known of these are:

a. The Gospel of Thomas

b. The Gospel of Peter

c. The Gospel of Hebrews

d. The Protevangelium of James

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

II. The Pseudepigrapha

A. Brief Description...

- 5. Their value is limited, but they do illustrate:**
 - a. Some of the ascetic and Gnostic attitudes opposed by the apostles**
 - b. The popular desire at that time for information beyond the Scriptures**
 - c. The tendency to glorify Christianity by fraudulent means**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

II. The Pseudepigrapha

B. Reasons For Rejection...

- 1. They were never considered canonical by respectable leaders**
- 2. Mainly produced by heretical groups**
- 3. Containing exaggerated and mythical religious folklore**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

II. The Pseudepigrapha

B. Reasons For Rejection...

- 4. Most known only through citation or quotation by another author**
- 5. Thus their historical connection to the apostles is suspect**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?
III. The New Testament Apocrypha
A. Brief Description...

- 1. Not to be confused with OT Apocrypha**
- 2. These were books written after the time of Christ**
 - a. Which were accepted at first by some in the church**
 - b. Which appeared at times in collections and translations of Scripture**
 - c. They had acceptance in some areas for a temporary period of time**
 - d. They never enjoyed acceptance by the Church in general**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

III. The New Testament Apocrypha

A. Brief Description...

3. The NT Apocrypha include:

a. The Epistle of Pseudo-Barnabas (70-79 A.D.)

b. The Epistle to the Corinthians (96 A.D.)

c. The Ancient Homily or The Second Epistle of Clement of Rome to the Corinthians (120-140 A.D.)

d. The Shepherd of Hermas (115-140 A.D.)

e. The Didache, also known as the Teaching of the Twelve (100-120 A.D.)

f. The Apocalypse of Peter (150 A.D.)

g. The Acts of Paul and Thecla (170 A.D.)

h. The Gospel According to the Hebrews (65-100 A.D.)

i. The Epistle of Polycarp to the Philippians (108 A.D.)

j. The Seven Epistles of Ignatius (110 A.D.)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

III. The New Testament Apocrypha

A. Brief Description...

4. These are more valuable than the Pseudepigrapha
 - a. They provide early documentation of the existence of NT books
 - b. They fill in the gap between the teaching of the apostles and the writings of the early church of the third and fourth centuries
 - c. They provide clues to the practices, policies and future teachings of the church

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

III. The New Testament Apocrypha

B. Reasons For Rejection...

- 1. They never enjoyed more than a temporary and local recognition**
- 2. Those that advocated their acceptance considered them at best to be "semi-canonical"**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

III. The New Testament Apocrypha

B. Reasons For Rejection...

- 3. No major church council or New Testament collection included them as inspired books**
- 4. The reason they had some acceptance was because they wrongly attached themselves to references in canonical books (cf. Colossians 4:16) or alleged apostolic authorship (e.g. the Acts of Paul)**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

III. The New Testament Apocrypha

B. Reasons For Rejection... CONCLUSION

1. Christians believe that God has spoken...

a. First, through prophets in OT times

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, (Hebrews 1:1)

b. Then, through His Son Jesus Christ

but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. (Hebrews 1:2)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its NT Canonicity?

III. The New Testament Apocrypha

B. Reasons For Rejection...CONCLUSION

c. Now, through the apostles and inspired writers of the NT

If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. (1Corinthians 14:37)

-- The record of God's revelation is now contained in the Bible, both the OT and NT

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

Introduction

- 1. Christians accept as their "canon" the 66 books of the Bible (39 OT books and 27 NT books)**
- 2. They view the Bible as "inspired" of God...**
 - a. Literally, "God-breathed" (Gr., theopneustos)**
 - b. That its scriptures were given by the Holy Spirit, and are not simply the words of men**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

Introduction

3. The Bible claims such inspiration...

a. It speaks of scripture inspired of God

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

b. It tells of men speaking as they were moved by the Holy Spirit

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

Introduction

c. It contains claims by those who spoke words revealed by the Spirit

However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" — but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. (1 Corinthians 2:9-13)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

I. The Unity Of The Bible

A. The Bible Contains 66 Books, Written...

- 1. Over a 1600 year span**
- 2. Over a period of 40 generations**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

I. The Unity Of The Bible

A. The Bible Contains 66 Books, Written...

3. By approximately 40 authors from every walk of life; e.g.

a. Moses, political leader trained in the universities of Egypt

b. Peter, fisherman

c. Amos, herdsman

d. Joshua, military general

e. Nehemiah, cup bearer to a king

f. Daniel, prime minister

g. Luke, a physician

h. Solomon, king

i. Matthew, tax collector

j. Paul, tentmaker and rabbi

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

I. The Unity Of The Bible

A. The Bible Contains 66 Books, Written...

4. In different places

- a. Moses in the wilderness
- b. Jeremiah in a dungeon
- c. Daniel on a hillside and in a palace
- d. Paul inside prison walls
- e. Luke while traveling
- f. John in exile on the isle of Patmos
- g. Others in the rigors of military campaign

5. At different times

- a. David in times of war
- b. Solomon in times of peace

6. During different moods

- a. Some writing from the heights of joy
- b. Others from the depths of sorrow and despair

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

I. The Unity Of The Bible

A. The Bible Contains 66 Books, Written...

7. On three continents:

Asia - Africa - Europe

8. In three languages:

Hebrew - Aramaic - Greek

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

I. The Unity Of The Bible

A. The Bible Contains 66 Books, Written...

9. Which subject matter includes hundreds of controversial topics

a. The origin of man and the universe

b. The nature of God

c. The nature of sin and man's redemption

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

I. The Unity Of The Bible

B. Yet There Is Harmony And Continuity...

1. For example we can compare

The First Book of the Bible, Genesis

with The Last Book of the Bible, Revelation:

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

I. The Unity Of The Bible

B. Yet There Is Harmony And Continuity...

Genesis 1:1, God created the heavens and the earth.

Rev. 21:1, a new heaven and a new earth.

Genesis 1:5, God called the darkness "night."

Rev.21:25, there will be no night there.

Gen.1:16, God made two great lights – the sun and moon. He also made the stars.

Rev. 21:23, sun and moon not needed for the glory of God gives its light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

Gen.2:17, death – spiritual and physical - entered the world

Rev.21:4, no more death

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

I. The Unity Of The Bible

B. Yet There Is Harmony And Continuity...

Genesis 3:1, Satan appears to deceive man.

Rev.20:10, Satan disappears

Gen.3:6-7, Shown a garden into which defilement entered

Rev.21:27, Shown a city into which defilement will never enter

Gen. 3:8-10, Walk of God with man interrupted

Rev.21:3, Walk of God with man resumed

Gen.3:13, initial triumph of Satan

Rev.20:10, ultimate triumph of the Lamb

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

I. The Unity Of The Bible

B. Yet There Is Harmony And Continuity...

Gen.3:16, sorrow
multiplied

Rev.21:4, no more sorrow

Gen.3:17, the ground is
cursed for our sake to
show us our need for
God

Rev.22:3, no more curse

Gen.2:19, man given
dominion

Gen.3:19, man's dominion
broken in the fall of the
first man, Adam

Rev.22:5, man's dominion
restored in the rule of
the new man Christ

Rev.1:5b-6, we will reign
with Him

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

I. The Unity Of The Bible

B. Yet There Is Harmony And Continuity...

Gen.3:23, first paradise
closed

Rev.21:25, new paradise
opened

Gen.3:24, access to the
tree of life disinherited in
Adam

Rev.22:14, access to the
tree of life reinstated in
Christ

Gen.3:24, they were driven
from God's presence

Rev.22:4, they shall see His
face

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

I. The Unity Of The Bible

B. Yet There Is Harmony And Continuity...

2. Compare the continuity of the Bible with any other such writings of man
 - a. Imagine what you would have if you just took ten authors...
 - 1) From one walk of life, one generation, one place, one time, one mood, one continent, one language
 - 2) Speaking on one controversial subject
 - b. You would have a conglomeration of ideas, not harmony!

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

I. The Unity Of The Bible

B. Yet There Is Harmony And Continuity...

The reason for the unity of the Bible? The writers were all moved by the same Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21), providing evidence that the Bible is inspired!

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

- 1. In the Bible there are scientific truths**
 - a. Unknown by man with all his wisdom & resources**
 - b. Stated as facts hundreds of years in advance of the discovery of these truths by men**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

- 2. The writers of the Bible could have known these facts only through inspiration**
 - a. They could not have known such things on their own**
 - b. They must have had divine help, i.e., inspiration from God**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument..

Biblical Scientific Truths

Creation made of invisible elements (Hebrews 11:3).

Science was ignorant on the subject. Only in recent years has science discovered that everything we see is composed of invisible atoms.

Here, Scripture tells us that the "things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." (Heb.11:3)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

Free float of earth in space (Job 26:7).

At a time when it was believed that the earth sat on a large animal or a giant (1500 B.C.), the Bible spoke of the earth's free float in space:

He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing. (Job 26:7)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

The earth is a sphere (Isaiah 40:22).

Science thought the earth was a flat disk.

The prophet Isaiah also tells us the earth is round:

He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. (Isaiah 40:22)

This is not a reference to a flat disk, as some skeptics maintain, but to a sphere.

Secular man discovered this 2,400 years later. At a time when science believed that the earth was flat, it was the Scriptures that inspired Christopher Columbus to sail around the world.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

God told Job in 1500 B.C.: "Can you send lightnings, that they may go, and say to you, Here we are?" (Job 38:35).

The Bible here is making what appears to be a scientifically ludicrous statement—that light can be sent, and then manifest itself in speech.

But did you know that radio waves travel at the speed of light? This is why you can have instantaneous wireless communication with someone on the other side of the earth. Science didn't discover this until 1864 when "British scientist James Clerk Maxwell suggested that electricity and light waves were two forms of the same thing" (Modern Century Illustrated Encyclopedia).

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

Light moves (Job 38:19-20) but scientists used to believe
Light was fixed in place.

"What is the way to the abode of light? And where does
darkness reside? Can you take them to their places? Do
you know the paths to their dwellings? (Job 38:19-20)

Modern man has recently discovered that light
(electromagnetic radiation) has a "way," traveling at
186,000 miles/second.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

Science has discovered that stars emit radio waves, which are received on earth as a high pitch.

God mentioned this in Job:

"When the morning stars sang together..." (Job 38:7)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

Winds blow in cyclones (Eccl.1:6).

Scientists used to believe winds blew straight.

Solomon described a "cycle" of air currents two thousand years before scientists "discovered" them.

"The wind goes toward the south, and turns about unto the north; it whirls about continually, and the wind returns again according to his circuits" (Ecclesiastes 1:6).

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

Ocean floor contains deep valleys & mountains. Believed the ocean floor was flat.

The valleys of the sea were exposed and the foundations of the earth laid bare at the rebuke of the LORD, at the blast of breath from his nostrils. (2 Samuel 22:16)

To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever.
But you brought my life up from the pit,
O LORD my God. (Jonah 2:6)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

Ocean contains springs (Job 38:16). Used to believe the Ocean fed only by rivers and rain.

"Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?" (Job 38:16)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

The currents in the seas. Used to be naïve about them.

**the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim
the paths of the seas. (Psalms 8:8)**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

Innumerable stars (Jeremiah 33:22). Used to believe only 1,100 stars.

I will make the descendants of David my servant and the Levites who minister before me as countless as the stars of the sky and as measureless as the sand on the seashore.' " (Jeremiah 33:22)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

Each star is different (1 Corinthians 15:41). Used to believe all stars were the same.

The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. (1 Corinthians 15:41)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

The sun as the greater light and moon as the lesser light.

People used to believe (and some still do) that the moon was the greater light and the sun was the lesser light.

God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. (Gen. 1:16)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

Science expresses the universe in five terms: time, space, matter, power, and motion. Genesis 1:1,2 revealed such truths to the Hebrews in 1450 B.C.:

The first thing God tells man is that He controls of all aspects of the universe.

"In the beginning [time] God created [power] the heaven [space] and the earth [matter] . . . And the Spirit of God moved [motion] upon the face of the waters." (Genesis 1:1-2)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

The great biological truth concerning the importance of blood in our body's mechanism has been fully comprehended only in recent years.

Up until 120 years ago, sick people were "bled," and many died because of the practice because if you lose your blood, you lose your life.

Yet Leviticus 17:11, written 3,000 years ago, declared that blood is the source of life:

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood."

The Bible taught that blood is the source of life and health but scientists believed sick people should be bled.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

Encyclopedia Britannica documents that in 1845, a young doctor in Vienna named Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis was horrified that 30% of the women who gave birth in hospitals, died. He noted that doctors would examine the bodies of patients who died, then, without washing their hands, go straight to the next ward and examine expectant mothers. This was their normal practice, because the presence of microscopic diseases was unknown. Semmelweis insisted that doctors wash their hands before examinations, & the death rate immediately dropped to 2%.

Look at the specific instructions God gave His people for when they encounter disease: "And when he that has an issue is cleansed of his issue; then he shall number to himself even days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in running water, and shall be clean" (Leviticus 15:13).

Until recent years, doctors washed their hands in a bowl of water, leaving invisible germs on their hands. However, the Bible is specific to wash hands under "running water."

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

Medical science has only recently discovered that blood-clotting in a newborn reaches its peak on the eighth day, then drops.

The Bible consistently says that a baby must be circumcised on the eighth day.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?
II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible
A. The Nature Of This Argument...

All nations of one blood.

From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. (Acts 17:26)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

During the devastating Black Death of the fourteenth century, patients who were sick or dead were kept in the same rooms as the rest of the family. People often wondered why the disease was affecting so many people at one time. They attributed these epidemics to 'bad air' or 'evil spirits.'

However, careful attention to the medical commands of God as revealed in Leviticus would have saved untold millions of lives. Arturo Castiglione wrote about the overwhelming importance of this biblical medical law: 'The laws against leprosy in Leviticus 13 may be regarded as the first model of sanitary legislation' (A History of Medicine)."

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

Luke 17:34–36 says the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will occur while some are asleep at night and others are working at daytime activities in the field.

This is a clear indication of a revolving earth, with day and night at the same time.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

With all these truths revealed in Scripture, how could a thinking person deny that the Bible is supernatural in origin?

There is no other book in any of the world's religions that contains scientific truth. In fact, they contain statements that are clearly unscientific. (Grant R. Jeffery, *The Signature of God*).

"Faith in Christ is not some blind leap into a dark chasm, but a faith based on established evidence." (Hank Hanegraaff).

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

II. The Scientific Foreknowledge Of The Bible

A. The Nature Of This Argument...

Such things were not known or confirmed by man until modern times, with the aid of scientific instruments.

Yet such knowledge reveals the Omniscient (All-knowing) Mind that moved the writers of the Bible!

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

- 1. The prophecies foretold events in detail that were beyond the scope of human speculation**

- 2. How did the writers or speakers do it?**
 - a. They attributed it to God!**
 - b. And God declared that such evidence was a proof of His existence & superiority over men & all gods**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

"Present your case," says the LORD. "Set forth your arguments," says Jacob's King. "Bring in your idols to tell us what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come, tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods. Do something, whether good or bad, so that we will be dismayed and filled with fear. But you are less than nothing and your works are utterly worthless; he who chooses you is detestable. (Isaiah 41:21-24)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you." (Isaiah 42:8-9)

"Remember this, fix it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do. (Isaiah 46:8-11)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

1. The fall of Babylon, written two hundred years before it occurred.

See, I will stir up against them the Medes, who do not care for silver and have no delight in gold. Their bows will strike down the young men; they will have no mercy on infants nor will they look with compassion on children. Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians' pride, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah. (Isa.13:17-19)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

2. The fall of Egypt, that it would be destroyed more by civil war than by outside forces.

An oracle concerning Egypt: See, the LORD rides on a swift cloud and is coming to Egypt. The idols of Egypt tremble before him, and the hearts of the Egyptians melt within them. "I will stir up Egyptian against Egyptian—brother will fight against brother, neighbor against neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom. The Egyptians will lose heart, and I will bring their plans to nothing; they will consult the idols and the spirits of the dead, the mediums and the spiritists. I will hand the Egyptians over to the power of a cruel master, and a fierce king will rule over them," declares the Lord, the LORD Almighty. (Isaiah 19:1-4)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

3. The fall of Nineveh, with its utter desolation.

He will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria, leaving Nineveh utterly desolate and dry as the desert. Flocks and herds will lie down there, creatures of every kind. The desert owl and the screech owl will roost on her columns. Their calls will echo through the windows, rubble will be in the doorways, the beams of cedar will be exposed. This is the carefree city that lived in safety. She said to herself, "I am, and there is none besides me." What a ruin she has become, a lair for wild beasts! All who pass by her scoff and shake their fists. (Zephaniah 2:13-15)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

4. The fall of Tyre, with its becoming a place for the spreading of nests,

In the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, because Tyre has said of Jerusalem, 'Aha! The gate to the nations is broken, and its doors have swung open to me; now that she lies in ruins I will prosper,' therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, O Tyre, and I will bring many nations against you, like the sea casting up its waves. They will destroy the walls of Tyre and pull down her towers; I will scrape away her rubble and make her a bare rock. Out in the sea she will become a place to spread fishnets, for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD. She will become plunder for the nations, (Ezekiel 26:1-5)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

5. There are the prophecies concerning Christ

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. (Luke 24:44-45)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

- a. It has been stated there 332 prophecies fulfilled in Christ - Henry Liddon
- b. The mathematical probability that all could be fulfilled in one person by chance alone has been calculated as one in 84 times ten to the 123rd power (84 followed by 123 zeroes).
-- Cf. Introduction To Christian Evidences, Ferrell Jenkins, pp. 87-107

For the Complete List see "Do You Think This Proves Jesus Was the Messiah?" at:
www.altogetherlovely.org (FREE TEACHINGS)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

- Christ from the seed of a woman (Gen.3:15: Moses). (Gal.4:4)
- Christ a descendant of Abraham (Gen.12:3: Moses). (Matt.1:1)
- Christ a descendant of Isaac (Gen. 17:19: Moses) (Luke 3:34)
- Christ a descendant of Jacob (Num.24:17: Moses). (Matt.1:2)
- Christ from the tribe of Judah (Gen.49:10: Moses). (Luke 3:33)
- Christ, heir to the throne of David (Isa.9:7: Isaiah). (Luke 1:32-33)
- Christ, anointed and eternal (Ps. 45:6-7 Ps.102:25-27: David). (Heb.1:8-12)
- Christ, born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2: Micah). (Luke 2:4-5,7)
- The time of Christ's birth fulfilled to the "day" by the Jewish calendar (Dan.9:25-27: Daniel) (Luke 2:1-2)
- Christ to be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14: Isaiah) (Luke 1:26-31)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

- The slaughter of children at this time with no other child surviving but Christ (Jer.31:15: Jeremiah). (Matt. 2:16-18)
- The family's flight to Egypt to escape (Hosea 1:1: Hosea) (Matt. 2:14-15)
- Christ's way prepared (Isa. 40:3-5: Isaiah). (Luke 3:3-6)
- Christ preceded by a forerunner (Isa.40:3-5: Isaiah). (Luke 7:24,27)
- Christ preceded by Elijah (Mal. 4:5-6: Malachi). (Matt.11:13-14)
- Christ declared the Son of God (Psalm 2:7: David). (Matt.3:17)
- Christ is God (Isa.9:6: Isaiah). (John 1:14)
- Christ's Galilean ministry (Isa.9:1: Isaiah). (Matt.4:13-16)
- Christ; speaking in parables (Psa. 78:2-4: David). (Matt.13:34-35)
- Christ; the prophet (Deut.18:15: Moses). (Acts 3:20,22)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

- Christ: betrayed for 30 pieces of silver
(Zech.11:12: Zechariah). (Matt. 26:15)
- Christ forsaken by His disciples
(Zech.13:7: Zechariah).
(Mark 14:27)
- Christ; accused by false witnesses
(Psa.35:11: David).
(Mark 14:57-58)
- Christ; silent to accusations (Isa. 53:7: Isaiah). (Mark 15:4-5)
- Christ; spat on and struck (Isa. 50:6: Isaiah). (Matt.26:67)
- Christ; hated without reason
(Psa.35:19: David). (John 15:24)
- Christ; to bind up the broken hearted
(Isa.61:1-2: Isaiah).
(Luke 4:18-19)
- Christ's anointing by the Holy Spirit
(Isa.61:1: Isaiah). (Luke 4:18-19)
- Christ; rejected by his own people, the Jews
(Isa.53:3: Isaiah).
(John 1:11; Luke 23:18)
- Christ; priest after order of Melchizedek
(Psa.110:4: David). (Heb.5:5-6)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

- Christ's triumphal entry on a colt (Zech.9:9: Zechariah). (Mark 11:7-11)
- Christ; adored by infants (Psa. 8:2: David). (Matt.21:15-16)
- Christ; not believed (Isa.53:1: Isaiah). (John 12:37-38)
- Christ; betrayed by a close friend (Psa.41:9: David). (Luke 22:47)
- Christ: betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zech.11:12: Zechariah). (Matt. 26:15)
- Christ forsaken by His disciples (Zech.13:7: Zechariah). (Mark 14:27)
- Christ; accused by false witnesses (Psa.35:11: David). (Mark 14:57-58)
- Christ; silent to accusations (Isa. 53:7: Isaiah). (Mark 15:4-5)
- Christ; spat on and struck (Isa. 50:6: Isaiah). (Matt.26:67)
- Christ; hated without reason (Psa.35:19: David). (John 15:24)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

- Christ's vicarious sacrifice (Isa. 53:5: Isaiah). (Romans 5:6,8)
- Christ; crucified with thieves (Isa. 53:12: Isaiah). (Mark 15:27-28)
- Christ; pierced through hands and feet (Zech.12:10: Zechariah). (John 20:27)
- Christ; sneered at and mocked (Psa.22:7: David). (Luke 23:35)
- Christ; reproached (Psa.69:9: David). (Romans 15:3)
- Christ would be given gall and vinegar (Psa.69:21: David). (Matt.27:34)
- Christ nailed to the cross (Psa. 22:16: David). (Luke 23:33)
- Christ; prayer for his enemies (Psa.109:4: David). (Luke 23:34)
- Soldiers gambled for Christ's clothing (Psa.22:17-18: David). (Matt. 27:35-36)
- Christ's intense suffering (Psa. 22:14: David). (Luke 22:44)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

- Christ; forsaken by God (Psa. 22:1: David). (Matt.27:46)
- Christ; no bones broken or on the Passover Lamb (Psa.34:20: David). (John 19:32-26)
- Christ; no bones broken or on the Passover Lamb (Ex.12:46: Moses). (John 19:32-36)
- Christ's side pierced (Zech.12:10: Zechariah). (John 19:34)
- Christ; buried with the rich (Isa. 53:9: Isaiah). (Matt.27:57-60)
- Christ; to be resurrected (Psa. 16:10; 49:15: David). (Mark 16:6-7)
- Christ; to be ascended to God's right hand (Psa.68:18: David) (1 Cor.15:4; Eph.4:8)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

CHRIST'S FIRST COMING

- A Suffering Servant
- Christ received a “Crown of Thorns”
- We now look backwards to the “Cross”.
- Provided salvation for our soul (Savior)
- Jesus came “secretly”; born a virgin.
- Jesus came “publicly” to Jerusalem.

CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

- A Glorious King
- Christ will receive a “Crown of Glory”
- We now look forward to the “Crown”.
- Our bodies will be changed (Redeemer)
- Jesus will come “secretly: at the rapture.
- Jesus comes “publicly” at the Revelation

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...

6. There are prophecies by Christ, such as the destruction of Jerusalem foretold in Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21; fulfilled in A.D. 70, when Rome destroyed Jerusalem.
7. As well, Christ “five times” talked of His suffering, death, resurrection.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples... CONCLUSION

- 1. This study barely touches the hem of the garment...**
 - a. Volumes have been written on the subject**
 - b. Our purpose has been to summarize the evidence**

- 2. We have examined objective evidence of inspiration, such as...**
 - a. The unity of the Bible**
 - b. The scientific foreknowledge of the Bible**
 - c. The fulfilled prophecies in the Bible**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

III. The Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

B. A Few Examples...CONCLUSION

3. There is also the subjective evidence of inspiration that comes by simply reading and heeding the Bible

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

(Romans 10:17)

Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. (John 7:16-17)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

I can remember as a new Christian wondering about “discrepancies” or “contradictions” in the Bible.

As I began to study things I realized how much Satan had deceived me and had tried to set up divisions between myself and God.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?
IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

Satan masquerades as “an angel of light”. God is LIGHT.

Satan is the “deceiver of the brethren”. God is TRUTH.

Satan: “the father of lies”. God: “the Father of TRUTH”.

“For with you is the fountain of life, in your light we see light.” (Psalm 36:9)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

Let's look at some "supposed" contradictions.

There are books written on this subject that you can follow up this topic in the future.

Remember, if you have trouble with Christianity, don't just go asking the enemies of Christianity ask Christianity's experts and then decide.....

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

1) No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. (John 1:18)

Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. (Exodus 24:9-10)

Both statements are CORRECT. They did not see God for God is a Spirit. They saw a physical reflection of God. When I look in the mirror I see a “reflection” of myself in the mirror but I’ve never seen my face as others have.

Also, again, they could not see the GLORY OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD for they would have died!!

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

2) but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000.
(Numbers 25:9)

We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. (1 Corinthians 10:8)

23,000 fell in “one day” and 24,000 was the total number that died.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

3) But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. (2 Samuel 24:24)

So David paid Araunah six hundred shekels of gold for the site. (1 Chronicles 21:25)

First David bought the threshing floor for 50 shekels of silver and later bought the whole farm (estate) for 600 shekels of gold.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

4) Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. (Isaiah 28:28)

It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he abstained from work and rested." (Exodus 31:17)

It doesn't say that God rested because He was tired. God doesn't get tired. He "rested" the seventh day to appreciate what He had created.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

5) As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. (John 13:27)

Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus.

In the first verse, Satan entered into Judas during the Last Supper.

In the second verses, Satan entered into Judas before the Last Supper.

Satan entered into Judas TWICE, the second time more completely. Satan is NOT omnipresent like Jesus for if he had stayed in Judas he would not have been able to be doing other things.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

6) As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God. (Luke 18:35,43)

Jesus healed one blind man as they came near Jericho.

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. (Mark 10:46,52)

Jesus healed one man as they departed from Jericho.

As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight." Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him. (Matthew 20:29-34)

Jesus healed two unnamed men some distance from Jericho.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

7) Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. (Matthew 27:37)

The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. (Mark 15:26)

There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. (Luke 23:38)

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. (John 19:19)

These accounts supplement, but do not contradict one another. No one of the Evangelists quotes the entire inscription. All have "The King of the Jews." Luke adds to this the further words, "This is"; Matthew quotes the name, "Jesus"; whilst John gives the additional words "of Nazareth."

The narratives combined give the entire inscription: "This is" (Matthew, Luke) "Jesus" (Matthew, John) "of Nazareth" (John) "the King of the Jews" all Gospels.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

EVENTS

- 1) Early that morning, three women came to the tomb and saw two angels (Matt.28:1-8; Mark 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-8)
- 2) They separated at the tomb. Mary Magdalene went to tell John and Peter (John 20:1). The other two went to tell the other two disciples (Luke 24:9-11)
- 3) Then Peter and John ran to the grave ahead of Mary and returned without seeing the Lord (John 20:3-10)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

APPEARANCES

- 1) Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene
(Mark 16:9; John 20:11-18)
- 2) Then to the women (Matt. 28:9-10)
- 3) Then to Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor.15:5)
- 4) Then in the late afternoon to the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
- 5) Then in the evening to disciples in the “Upper Room” (John 20:19-24; Luke 24:36-48)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

- 6) A week later, to the same disciples with Thomas present (John 20:24-29)**

- 7) Later, He appeared to 7 disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-25)**

- 8) Then to the “Eleven” on a mountain in Galilee (Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-18)**

- 9) Then to the 500 brethren at once (1 Cor.15:6)**

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

10) Then to James (1 Cor.15:7)

11) Then He ascended to Heaven in the presence of His Disciples from the Mount of Olives (Luke 24:50-53; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9)

12) Then He appeared to Steven (Acts 7:52-56)

13) Then he appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-6; 1 Cor.15:8)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?
IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

FOR FURTHER EXPLANATIONS / QUESTIONS GO TO:

The Scofield's Notes:

www.studylight.org/com/srn/

Evidence for the Bible:

www.evidencebible.com/witnessingtool/browse.shtml#cevolution

Blue Letter Bible

www.blueletterbible.org/study/parallel/paral01.cfm#b-1

Note: if you have trouble with the links, type the main page only.

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its Inspiration by God?

IV. Supposed Contradictions in the Bible

**Also see, “More Than A Carpenter” by Josh McDowell.
Lee Strobel, “The Case for Christ” & “The Case for Faith”.**

Lee Strobel, was a renowned non-believer who went to credible Christians with the toughest questions about Christianity.

He asked the tough questions about Christ’s death, resurrection, historical records, the Bible, etc. and became a Christian.

Well worth reading or giving to a non-believer who is seeking!!

Can We Trust the Bible?

The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

Introduction

1. Some will acknowledge that the Bible has been faithfully preserved and translated.

They'll also acknowledge it contains the books that serve as our authority (canon) in religion.

They'll even confess it is inspired by God

Yet they contend that Bible cannot be understood

Can We Trust the Bible?
The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

Introduction

2. Or at the very least they will argue...

- a. That we need a guide to help us (such as some church authority)**
- b. Or that we need the help of the Holy Spirit to understand it.**

Can We Trust the Bible?
The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

Introduction

3. Can the Bible be understood...?

- a. Is it so difficult that the common man cannot understand it?**
- b. Is it so mysterious that only 'Spirit-led' people can comprehend it?**

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

A. Regarding The Old Testament...

1. It was written for our learning

**For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
(Romans 15:4)**

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

A. Regarding The Old Testament...

- a. Jesus expected people to understand it
("Haven't you read...?")

He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?

Or haven't you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent? (Matthew 12:3,5)

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' (Matthew 19:4)

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

A. Regarding The Old Testament...

b. Paul expected unbelieving Jews to understand it

As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ" he said. (Acts 17:2-3)

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

A. Regarding The Old Testament...

c. The Berean Jews were commended for searching the Scriptures

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17:11)

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

A. Regarding The Old Testament...

d. Timothy understood much of it as a child

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:14-15)

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

A. Regarding The Old Testament...

2. Didn't some people need help to understand it?

a. Such as the disciples?

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. (Luke 24:25-27)

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (24:44-47)

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

A. Regarding The Old Testament...

b. Such as the Ethiopian eunuch?

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. (Acts 8:30-35)

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

A. Regarding The Old Testament...

3. Yes, because it contained a mystery yet to be revealed

a. A mystery kept secret since the world began

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, (Romans 16:25)

b. A mystery now made manifest to all nations

but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him— (Romans 16:26)

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

A. Regarding The Old Testament...

c. A mystery now revealed by the Spirit to the apostles and prophets

that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. (Ephesians 3:3-5)

With the aid of the New Testament, what was a mystery in the Old Testament can now be understood!

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

B. Regarding The New Testament...

1. The writers expected their readers to understand

a. Luke wrote his gospel that one might know

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. (Luke 1:1-4)

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

B. Regarding The New Testament...

b. John wrote his gospel that one might believe

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

B. Regarding The New Testament...

c. John wrote his epistle that one might know

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

B. Regarding The New Testament...

d. Paul wrote for people to understand, to have his knowledge

For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. (2 Corinthians 1:13a)

that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. (Ephesians 3:3-5)

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

B. Regarding The New Testament...

2. Aren't some things hard to understand?

a. Like some of the things Paul wrote?

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

(2 Peter 3:15-16)

b. Like the book of Revelation?

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

B. Regarding The New Testament...

3. Yes, but that does not mean they cannot be understood

a. It is the "untaught and unstable" that have problems

He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. (2 Peter 3:16)

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

B. Regarding The New Testament...

b. We are expected to grow in knowledge

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, (Colossians 1:10)

Can We Trust the Bible?

I. The Bible Was Written To Be Understood

B. Regarding The New Testament...

c. As we mature, we are able to handle the "meat"

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. (Hebrews 5:11-14)

-- The New Testament was written to be understood, though in progressive stages

Can We Trust the Bible?

II. God Expects Us To Understand The Bible

A. He Expects Us To Understand His Will...

1. He desires all men to come to a knowledge of the truth.

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

Can We Trust the Bible?

II. God Expects Us To Understand The Bible

A. He Expects Us To Understand His Will...

2. He commands it of His children

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. (Ephesians 5:17)

-- Would God desire and command that which is impossible?

Can We Trust the Bible?

II. God Expects Us To Understand The Bible

B. He Expects Us To Understand It Alike...

1. Jesus prayed for unity among His followers

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, (John 17:20)

Can We Trust the Bible?

II. God Expects Us To Understand The Bible

B. He Expects Us To Understand It Alike...

2. Paul commanded Christians to have the same mind

I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? (1Corinthians 1:10-13)

then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. (Philippians 2:2)

Can We Trust the Bible?

II. God Expects Us To Understand The Bible

B. He Expects Us To Understand It Alike...

3. There are essentials on which we must be united

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

(Ephesians 4:3-6)

-- Did Jesus and Paul demand that which is unattainable?

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

A. Reasons Often Given...

1. "It can't be understood"

a. We seen that it was written to be understood

b. To say that man cannot understand is to inhibit God's ability to provide a revelation

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

A. Reasons Often Given...

- 2. "Only 'Spirit-filled' people can understand it"**
 - a. This belief actually contributes to much misunderstanding and division over the Bible**
 - 1) Everyone claims the Spirit is leading them to their own understanding**
 - 2) Others are wrong because they don't have the Spirit's leading**

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

A. Reasons Often Given...

**b. It is based upon a misreading and misapplication of
1 Corinthians 2:14**

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1Cor. 2:14)

- 1) That one cannot understand spiritual things without the help of the Spirit**
- 2) Including understanding the Bible, that it requires the Spirit's aid**

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

A. Reasons Often Given...

c. But note the context

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" — but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

(pt.1.....continue)

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

A. Reasons Often Given...

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words (1 Cor. 2:6-13)

- 1) Paul is contrasting God's wisdom with the wisdom of this world**
- 2) The world with its wisdom cannot know what God has prepared**
- 3) What is known in the mind of God comes only through divine revelation**

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

A. Reasons Often Given...

d. Note carefully the process:

1) God has prepared things which man cannot perceive on his own

However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" — (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

A. Reasons Often Given...

d. Note carefully the process:

2) God has revealed them to the apostles through His Spirit who alone knows the mind of God

but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

(1 Corinthians 2:10-11)

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

A. Reasons Often Given...

**3) The apostles received that which the Spirit revealed,
that we might know the things given to us by God**

**We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit
who is from God, that we may understand what God
has freely given us. (1 Corinthians 2:12)**

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

A. Reasons Often Given...

4) The apostles speak that which they received, using words of the Spirit, not words of human wisdom –

This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. (1 Corinthians 2:13)

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

A. Reasons Often Given...

e. Here, then, is the proper meaning of 1 Cor. 2:14-16

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:14-16)

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

A. Reasons Often Given...

1) The 'natural man' is one who depends upon human wisdom (such as the 'rulers of the age')

a) Without the benefit of divine revelation

b) Who therefore is unable to receive the things of the Spirit of God

c) Who depending only on human wisdom considers the things of God foolishness

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

A. Reasons Often Given...

- 2) The 'spiritual man' is one who has the Spirit (such as apostles)
 - a) Who has been given divine revelation of God's will**
 - b) Who is therefore able to judge all things, and is judged by no one**
 - c) For such has been given the mind of the Lord (Christ)****

- 3) Paul is therefore contrasting himself (and the apostles) with uninspired men**

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

A. Reasons Often Given...

f. Remember now what Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:3-5

that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. (Ephesians 3:3-5)

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

A. Reasons Often Given...

- 1) God has revealed what was unknown (the mystery) to the apostles and prophets by His Spirit.**
 - 2) Who in turn have written what they received.**
 - 3) Whereby when we read, we can now understand their knowledge!**
- We don't need some special guidance of the Spirit to understand the Word; the Word of God itself is the Spirit's own revelation of God's will!**

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

B. The Real Reasons...

1. Many make little or no effort

a. They rarely read and study the Bible

b. They therefore remain ignorant

c. They remain babes in their knowledge and understanding

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

B. The Real Reasons...

2. Many study for the wrong reasons

- a. They may spend a lot of time studying, but with improper motives**
 - i. To prove themselves right (reading only to justify their conduct or beliefs)**
 - ii. To prove others wrong (reading only to find arguments to support their position)**

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

B. The Real Reasons...

- 3. Many fail to apply their God-given common sense**
 - a. Such as looking up words they don't understand**
 - b. Such as defining words in their context**
 - c. Such as taking into consideration all that God's word says on a subject**

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

B. The Real Reasons...

d. Such as studying the Bible the way it was written

1) Book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse

2) Starting at the beginning, reading through to the end

-- The problem is not with God's Word; the problem is slothful, sloppy handling of God's word

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

B. The Real Reasons...CONCLUSION

Conclusion

1. The Bible can be understood...

a. By children

b. By truth seekers

c. By babes in Christ

**-- Though parts of it will always challenge even the mature
Christian**

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

B. The Real Reasons...CONCLUSION

2. God desires that all be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth

who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:4)

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

B. The Real Reasons...CONCLUSION

a. He gave His Son as a ransom

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

B. The Real Reasons...CONCLUSION

b. He sent His Spirit to guide us into all the truth

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (John 16:13)

Can We Trust the Bible?

III. Why Some Do Not Understand The Bible

B. The Real Reasons...CONCLUSION

-- Through His apostles and prophets His truth and salvation can be known!

The question is not whether God's word can be understood, but whether we will make an honest and sincere effort to understand and obey it!

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
Introduction**

1. Even though the Bible...

- a. Has been faithfully preserved and translated**
- b. Contains the books that serve as our authority (canon) in religion**
- c. Is inspired by God**
- d. Can be understood**

-- There are some who deny the all-sufficiency of the Scriptures

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
Introduction**

- 2. For example, some accept, in addition to the Bible...**
 - a. Traditions of their church which have developed over the years**
 - b. Papal or ecclesiastical decrees**
- Who allow such 'traditions' or 'decrees' to take precedence over the Scriptures**

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
Introduction**

3. Others accept in addition in to the Bible...

a. Latter-day prophets (Mormons, etc.)

b. Modern-day revelations

**-- Who allow such 'revelations' to take precedence over
the Scriptures**

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
Introduction**

- 4. When people appeal to other sources for their authority in religion..**
 - a. They reject 'the all-sufficiency of the Scriptures'...**
 - b. Religious confusion is the fruit!**

- The way out of religious confusion is to recognize the need for the same standard of authority, which ought to be the Scriptures alone!**

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
I. The Whole Counsel Of God Has Been Proclaimed**

A. In His Address To The Ephesian Elders...

1. Paul said he had held nothing back

You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. (Acts 20:20)

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
I. The Whole Counsel Of God Has Been Proclaimed**

A. In His Address To The Ephesian Elders...

2. Paul said he had proclaimed "the whole counsel of God"

For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. (Acts 20:27)

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
I. The Whole Counsel Of God Has Been Proclaimed**

B. HE ENTRUSTED THEM TO THE WORD OF GOD...

1. Which was sufficient to "build you up"

**“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace,
which can build you up and give you an inheritance
among all those who are sanctified. (Acts 20:32)**

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
I. The Whole Counsel Of God Has Been Proclaimed**

B. HE ENTRUSTED THEM TO THE WORD OF GOD...

2. Which was sufficient to "give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified"

"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (Acts 20:32)

Paul did not leave them to 'revelations' or 'apostles' yet to come, but to the Word of God which was sufficient to save them!

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
II. We Have All Things Pertaining To Life And Godliness**

A. PETER WROTE IN HIS SECOND EPISTLE...

1. That God has given us "all things that pertain to life and godliness"

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. (2 Peter 1:3)

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
II. We Have All Things Pertaining To Life And Godliness**

A. PETER WROTE IN HIS SECOND EPISTLE...

2. Through the knowledge of Him who called us

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. (2 Peter 1:3)

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
II. We Have All Things Pertaining To Life And Godliness**

B. NOTE WELL WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US...

- 1. He has not given 'some' things, but 'all' things**
- 2. He has not given 'some' things now, with 'more' things to come later**

Whatever I need for 'spiritual life' and 'godly conduct' has been revealed in God's Word!

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
III. The Faith Has Been Revealed Once For All**

A. JUDE WROTE OF 'THE FAITH'...

- 1. eg) those things in which we are to believe**
- 2. That is was "once for all delivered to the saints"**

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. (Jude 3)

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
III. The Faith Has Been Revealed Once For All**

B. DELIVERED 'ONE TIME FOR ALL TIME'...

- 1. In the Greek, 'once for all' is literally 'one time for all time'**
- 2. eg) the faith (that body of knowledge we are to believe) was delivered one time for all time**

to be revealed for a generation yet future!

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
III. The Faith Has Been Revealed Once For All**

B. DELIVERED 'ONE TIME FOR ALL TIME'...

- 3. The faith wasn't partly revealed, with more to come through later revelations years later!**
- 4. The faith wasn't revealed just for that generation, with a different faith to be revealed for a generation yet future!**

Therefore the task we have is "to contend earnestly for the faith", not be looking for a new faith to fit our desires or expectations!

Can We Trust the Bible?

Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?

IV. The Scriptures Make Us Complete, Equipped For Every Good Work

A. PAUL WROTE OF THE VALUE OF THE SCRIPTURES...

1. That they are inspired of God, and profitable for:

a. Doctrine and reproof

b. Correction and instruction in righteousness

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, (2 Timothy 3:16)

Can We Trust the Bible?

Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?

IV. The Scriptures Make Us Complete, Equipped For Every Good Work

2. They are capable of making one "complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work"

a. Not partial, but complete!

b. Not some good works, but every good work!

so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim.3:17)

-- What tradition, decree of man, or modern day revelation, can do any more than the inspired Word of God?

Can We Trust the Bible?

Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?

IV. The Scriptures Make Us Complete, Equipped For Every Good Work

B. IN THE SCRIPTURES, WE HAVE ALL WE NEED...

1. To believe in Jesus

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)

Can We Trust the Bible?

Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?

IV. The Scriptures Make Us Complete, Equipped For Every Good Work

B. IN THE SCRIPTURES, WE HAVE ALL WE NEED...

2. To have life in His name

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)

Can We Trust the Bible?

Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?

IV. The Scriptures Make Us Complete, Equipped For Every Good Work

B. IN THE SCRIPTURES, WE HAVE ALL WE NEED...

3. To have fellowship with the Father, the Son, and the apostles

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. (1John 1:3)

Can We Trust the Bible?

Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?

IV. The Scriptures Make Us Complete, Equipped For Every Good Work

B. IN THE SCRIPTURES, WE HAVE ALL WE NEED...

4. To have joy that is complete

We write this to make our joy complete. (1 John 1:4)

Can We Trust the Bible?

Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?

IV. The Scriptures Make Us Complete, Equipped For Every Good Work

B. IN THE SCRIPTURES, WE HAVE ALL WE NEED...

5. To have help when we sin

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. (1 John 2:1)

Can We Trust the Bible?

Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?

IV. The Scriptures Make Us Complete, Equipped For Every Good Work

B. IN THE SCRIPTURES, WE HAVE ALL WE NEED...

6. To know that we have eternal life

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

Can We Trust the Bible? Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
IV. The Scriptures Make Us Complete, Equipped For Every Good Work

B. IN THE SCRIPTURES, WE HAVE ALL WE NEED...

7. To understand the revelation of the mystery of God

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him— (Romans 16:25-26)

that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, (Eph. 3:3-4)

Can We Trust the Bible?

Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?

IV. The Scriptures Make Us Complete, Equipped For Every Good Work

B. IN THE SCRIPTURES, WE HAVE ALL WE NEED...

8. To be fruitful in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and have an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:8-11)

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?**

- 1. I hope you have been given viable reasons to place your faith in the Word of God, and it alone...!**
 - a. The whole counsel of God has been proclaimed!**
 - b. We have all things pertaining to life and godliness!**
 - c. The faith has been revealed once and for all!**
 - d. The Scriptures can make us complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work!**

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
IV. The Scriptures Make Us Complete, Equipped For Every Good
Work**

CONCLUSION

2. Can we trust the Bible...?

- a. Yes, for it has been faithfully preserved and translated!**
- b. Yes, for it contains the books that rightly serve as our canon (authority)!**
- c. Yes, for it is inspired of God!**
- d. Yes, for it can be understood!**
- e. Yes, for it is an all-sufficient guide for salvation!**

Can We Trust the Bible?

Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?

IV. The Scriptures Make Us Complete, Equipped For Every Good Work

CONCLUSION

- 3. Those who would deny such things are either...**
 - a. Atheists and skeptics who wish to reject the Bible which condemns their lifestyle**
 - b. Leaders of cults or man-made religions who desire your full allegiance to themselves**

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?
IV. The Scriptures Make Us Complete, Equipped For Every Good
Work**

CONCLUSION

But in the words of the apostle Paul...

**"I commend you to God and to the word of His grace,
which is able to build you up and give you an
inheritance among all those who are sanctified."**

(Acts 20:32)

**Place your faith and trust in God and His Word alone, and
you cannot go wrong!**

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?**

**Consequently, Faith Comes From
Hearing The Message, And The
Message Is Heard Through The
Word Of Christ. (Romans 10:17)**

**Can We Trust the Bible?
Regarding Its All-Sufficiency For Salvation?**

**Sanctify Them
By The Truth;
Your Word Is Truth.
(John 17:17)**

Can We Trust the Bible?

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