

QUESTIONS YOU HOPE THEY DON'T ASK

"How do we know the Bible is Trustworthy?"

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- Introduction:
1. How do we know that the Bible is the word of God and that we have it in a trustworthy form today?
 2. First, let us note that if the Bible is indeed the Word of God, think of how fortunate and accountable we are to have such ready access to it.
 3. Since there are a number of books which claim to be the inspired Word of God, how can we be sure that it is the Bible that is genuinely the Word of God and not some other book?
 - a. The Koran.
 - b. The Divine Principle.
 - c. The Book of Mormon.
 - d. Science and Health with Keys to the Scriptures.
 3. This lesson offers several evidences which testify to the fact that the Bible is God's inspired word.

I. **The Bible Claims to be Inspired by God**

- A. (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- B. (2 Peter 1:20-21).
- C. Inspiration literally means "God breathed."
- D. Consider the folly of affirming that God inspired the Scriptures, making sure that everything that needed to be communicated was just right, but then he didn't safeguard the Scriptures for generations to come.
- E. Concerning the Bible, the Book of Mormon says, "many plain and precious things" were taken from it (1 Nephi 13:28).
- F. Have things been removed from the Bible?
 1. To make an assertion without proof is careless and without evidence.
 2. On the contrary, evidence demonstrates that the Bible has not been tampered with.
 - a. Dead Sea Scrolls and the Masoretic text.
 - b. New Testament – Manuscripts, Versions, Church Fathers.
 3. The abundance of witnesses help to identify outliers or scribal mistakes.
 - a. Example of the Wicked Bible (1631) – Left out the "not" in "Thou shalt not commit adultery.
 - b. Who killed Goliath (1 Sam. 17; 2 Sam. 21:19; 1 Chron. 20:5).
 4. Also, many claimed contradictions are not contradictions at all.

- a. Consider how these two statements are not contradictions: "Mary is rich," and "Mary is poor."
 1. Different Mary's.
 2. Rich and poor: Spiritual or physical wealth.
 3. When were both statements said?
 4. Perspective of the one making the statement.

II. Evidences of Inspiration

- A. Its Own Internal Claims.
 1. Some might object that the Bible cannot be used to testify in its own defense, but surely it can and justice must allow it.
 2. If the Bible makes claims and can substantiate those claims, its testimony is proven trustworthy.
 3. (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
 4. (2 Peter 1:21).
 5. A total of 3,808 times, the Old Testament uses such phrases as, "Thus saith the Lord," "The Lord said," "The word of the Lord came unto me," and "The word of the Lord was in my mouth."
- B. Its Unity is an Evidence
 1. The Bible is a collection of 66 books, written by around 40 authors, over approximately 1500 years.
 2. Yet, in spite of this, The Bible is a uniquely unified book.
 - a. The thread of redemption is woven through every book.
 - 1) Law - The Foundation for Jesus.
 - 2) History - The Preparation for Jesus.
 - 3) Poetry - The Aspiration for Jesus.
 - 4) Prophets - The Expectation of Jesus.
 - 5) Biography - The Manifestation of Jesus.
 - 6) History - The Propagation of Jesus.
 - 7) Epistles - The Expectations of Jesus.
 - 8) Prophecy - The Consummation of all things in Jesus.
 - b. There is no disagreement or contradiction.
- C. Its Indestructibility is an Evidence.
 1. (Matthew 24:35).
 2. (John 10:35).
 3. The persistent attacks of infidels and false religions throughout the ages have failed, and will continue to fail in their combined efforts to destroy the Bible and its influence.
 4. Jehoiakim (Jeremiah 36:22-23).
 5. Voltaire - "Within 50 years, the Bible will no longer be discussed among educated people."
 6. Robert Ingersol - "In 15 years, I will have this book in the morgue."

- D. Its Impartiality is an Evidence
 - 1. The Bible records both the morality and immorality, the triumphs and failures, the glorious events as well as the scandalous events in the lives of its heroes.
 - 2. There is an objective honesty in the bible that humans would have great difficulty achieving.
 - E. Its Historical, Scientific, and Geographic References are accurate.
 - 1. While the Bible is not a history book, science book or a geography book, when it does reference these matters, it does so accurately.
 - F. Logic and Rationality Suggest It.
 - 1. Consider what the possibilities are for the existence of the Bible.
 - a. The Devil is the author (but why would the Devil write such a book which calls men to God?)
 - b. Evil Men were the authors (but is it within the ability and disposition of evil men to write such a book?)
 - c. Good Men were the authors (could good men be the authors if they lied, saying that God was the author? Are good men liars who deceive?)
 - d. God is the author (this would make the Bible exactly what it claims to be.
 - G. Its Fulfilled Prophecy is an Evidence
 - 1. For prophecy to be convincingly used as evidence of inspiration, it must meet the following criterion.
 - a. It must be detailed to exclude chance fulfillment.
 - b. It must have no historical hints that might forecast a future event.
 - c. It must be 100% free from error.
 - 2. No other book but the Bible can satisfy these criteria.
 - 3. The Old Testament contains many detailed prophecies concerning the coming of the Christ which are all fulfilled in Jesus.
 - 4. (Daniel 2) Rise and fall of nations.
 - 5. (Ezekiel 26) The destruction of Tyre.
 - 6. (Isaiah 44:25, Ezra 1:1) The Jews return to Jerusalem
- Conclusion:
- 1. In light of so many evidences, one can affirm with assurance that the Bible is indeed the inspired word of God.
 - 2. And if it is the word of God, how should we receive it (1 Thessalonians 2:13).
 - 3. Someday, the words contained in the Bible will judge our lives (John 8:48).