



## ANSWERS TO LIFE'S 7 MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

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**HOW CAN I KNOW THE BIBLE IS TRUE? Part 2**    **September 30, 2012 | 9:15 & 10:50am**

Introduction: Today we are going to examine two more powerful evidences for the inerrancy of the Bible, as well as answer the most common objections to the trustworthiness of the Scriptures.

I.      What Do We Mean When We Say The Bible Is True?

A.      Inerrant (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

2 Timothy 3:16-17

<sup>16</sup> "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

<sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

B.      Inspired (2 Peter 1:21)

2 Peter 1:21 "for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

II.     Evidence For The Trustworthiness Of The Bible

A.      The Bible's Claims About Itself

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- B. Fulfilled Prophecy
  
- C. Unity of the Bible
  
- D. Early Acceptance of Message

Colossians 2:17 “things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.”

- E. Archaeological Evidence
  - 1. Evidence for the Old Testament
    - a. Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19)
  
    - b. Jericho (Joshua 6)
  
    - c. Ashpenaz (Daniel 1:3)

Daniel 1:3 “Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles,”

- d. David

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### 2. Evidence for the New Testament

a. Luke's gospel

b. Caiaphas the High Priest (Matthew 26:57)

Matthew 26:57 "Those who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were gathered together."

c. Pontius Pilate (Matthew 27:2)

Matthew 27:2 "and they bound Him, and led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate the governor."

d. Theatre in Ephesus (Acts 19)

### III. Common Objections To The Trustworthiness Of The Bible

A. "Scribes Must Have Made Numerous Errors In Copying Texts Throughout the Centuries."

1. Manuscript support for the Old Testament

2. Manuscript support for the New Testament

### B. “The Selection of the Books We Have In Our Bible Was Arbitrary.”

1. The Old Testament Canon (Deuteronomy 31:24-26, Joshua 24:26, 1 Samuel 10:25, Zechariah 7:12, Daniel 9:2)

Deuteronomy 31:24-26

<sup>24</sup> “It came about, when Moses finished writing the words of this law in a book until they were complete,

<sup>25</sup> that Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying,

<sup>26</sup> ‘Take this book of the law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may remain there as a witness against you.’”

Joshua 24:26 “And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord.”

1 Samuel 10:25 “Then Samuel told the people the ordinances of the kingdom, and wrote them in the book and placed it before the Lord, and Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his house.”

Zechariah 7:12 “They made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the Lord of hosts.”

Daniel 9:2 “In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.”

2. What about the Apocrypha?

3. The New Testament Canon (2 Peter 3:15-16, 1 Timothy 5:18, Jude 17)

2 Peter 3:15-16

<sup>15</sup> “and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

<sup>16</sup> as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.”

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1 Timothy 5:18 “For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing’, and ‘The laborer is worthy of his wages.’”

Jude 17 “But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

4. What about the ‘Gnostic Gospels’?
  - a. None were written by the apostles who were eyewitnesses to Jesus’ life.
  - b. They were written between 100 and 200 years after the time of Christ.
  - c. They were rejected by church leaders.

### C. “The Bible Contains Too Many Errors and Contradictions To Be Trustworthy.”

1. Explanations for “errors” in the Bible
  - a. Language of appearance (Isaiah 11:12)

Isaiah 11:12 “And He will lift up a standard for the nations and assemble the banished ones of Israel, and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”

- b. Copyists’ errors (2 Chronicles 22:2 vs. 2 Kings 8:26)

2 Chronicles 22:2 “Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother’s name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri.” (KJV)

2 Kings 8:26 “Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother’s name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri king of Israel.”

2 Chronicles 9:25 “Now Solomon had 4,000 stalls for horses and chariots and 12,000 horsemen, and he stationed them in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.”

1 Kings 4:26 “Solomon had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, and 12,000 horsemen.”

- c. Poor translation (Matthew 13:32)

Matthew 13:32 “and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

- 2. Alleged contradictions

- a. Approximations (Numbers 25:9 vs. 1 Corinthians 10:8)

Numbers 25:9 “Those who died by the plague were 24,000.”

1 Corinthians 10:8 “Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.”

- b. Paraphrases (Luke 6 vs. Matthew 5-7)

- c. Complementary accounts of same event

Conclusion

*Next week: “How Can I Know God Is Good With All The Suffering In The World?”*