

THE BIBLE

How Can We Know the Bible to be God's Word?

It is Without Error in Matters of T_____

- There are no errors in the original writings, but our English Bibles are based on hand-_____ copies (copies of copies).
 1. The Old Testament was hand copied with great care
 - a. Prior to 1948, the oldest Hebrew copy of any portion of the O.T. was dated _____ A.D.
 - b. After the discovery of the Dead Sea S_____ in 1948-1952, Hebrew copies of the O.T. dated back to 200 B.C.
 - c. O.T. Hebrew copies that were 1200 years apart had little differences (mostly s_____, occasionally a difference in words). This was due to the strict rules followed by O.T. copiers:
 - 1) Scribes knew the m_____ letter of each book
 - 2) Scribes knew the total number of e_____ Hebrew letter in each book
 - 3) There were dozens of cross-checks; if a copy did not measure up, it was d_____
 2. The New Testament was NOT copied with great care
 - a. We have over 5000 Greek copies of various parts of the N.T. and no two are alike (most differences are minor, but scribes tended to add clarity and correct supposed e_____)
 - b. Since we know the approximate dates of the copies, by comparing them we can determine how the differences arose and can confidently know the original.
 3. Our English Bibles include things that were NOT in the original writings
 - a. The account of the adulterous woman (John 7:53-8:11)
 - 1) Copies of this account are found in _____ different locations (3 in John 7; 1 in Luke)
 - 2) The account does not fit well in John 7:53-8:11 (note that the account ends with the Pharisees walking away; yet Jesus addresses them in verse 12 as if they had never left)
 - 3) This story was probably historical but it is not s_____ (remember Jn 21:25).
 - b. The ending of the gospel of Mark
 - 1) There are _____ different endings to Mark (only one ending is correct)
 - a) The gospel account should end with verse 8, with the women, out of fear, not telling anyone that Jesus rose from the dead- *they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.* How do we know this is the right ending?
 - The e_____ copies end the gospel of Mark with verse 8
 - Scribes would never chop off a bunch of words to make it end at verse 8, because it is not the way one would e_____ Mark to end the gospel.
 - Scribes would add an ending, if they thought the ending was missing (that is why there are three different additions in various copies).
 - b) How many of you are believers according to Verses 17,18? It states these s_____ WILL accompany believers (ALL believers, not some)
 - 2) Mark ended with verse 8 for effect (see my message on Mark: *Will You Stand Up for Jesus?*)
- Some critics have challenged the h_____ accuracy of the Bible
 1. No historical account of the Bible has been p_____ false
 2. Lk 2:1,2 was considered a historical error by many critics, since there was no extra-biblical evidence that Quirinius was governor of Syria during the time leading up to Jesus' birth.
 - a. The Jewish Historian, Josephus, states in Antiq 18:1,1 that Quirinius was governor of Syria during a census decreed by Caesar (but this census was _____ years after Christ's birth)
 - b. An archeological discovery in 1913 uncovered an inscription of an unnamed person who was governor over Syria two separate times (Sir William Ramsay, Bearing Recent Discovery, p. 281)
 - c. Luke knew Quirinius to be this two-time governor and so writes *this is the first census taken* (not the second one that Josephus mentions), *while Quirinius was governing Syria.*
- Some critics have challenged the s_____ accuracy of the Bible
 1. No account making a scientific claim has been p_____ to be false.
 2. Evolution cannot be used as proof against Creation, since it is a t_____.

3. Many critics point out passages that are not making scientific statements but are using the perspectives and language of the reader.
 - a. If I say that the sun rises and sets, am I in error? I am not speaking scientifically, but from a human perspective (we do not see the earth revolving around the sun or on its axis)
 - b. Is 11:12 – *God will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.*
 - 1) Isaiah is not making a statement about the s_____ of the earth but about God gathering His dispersed people.
 - 2) Isaiah is using a common term that the people of his day used (the four corners of the earth) to mean from all over the w_____.

It is Without Failure in Predictive Prophecy

- One of the tests of a prophet was that ALL predictions must come t_____ (Deut 18:22) – if one prediction failed, then the prophet was deemed a false prophet.
- Predictive prophecy
 1. Is NOT God seeing into the f_____ and telling us what will happen
 2. IS God declaring the future and then m_____ that future happen (Is 46:9-11)
- Isaiah 53 was written around 700 B.C. and was fulfilled in 30 A.D. – remember, Jesus claimed to be the S_____ Servant of Isaiah 42-66 (see Lk 4:16-21, where Jesus quotes from Isaiah 61)
 - ♦ verse 5 – *He was pierced...* (with n_____ Jn 20:25); *By His scourging...* (Matt 27:26)
 - ♦ verse 7 – *He was afflicted yet He did not o_____ His mouth* (He did not defend Himself)
 - ♦ verse 9 – *His grave was assigned with wicked men* (crucified between to t_____ – Lk 23:41)
 - ♦ *He was with a r_____ man in His death* (Matt 27:57-60)
 - ♦ What are the chances for this prophecy to be fulfilled in any one person? – Only ONE has fulfilled it!
- The prophecies yet to be fulfilled mostly have to do with events surrounding the _____ of Christ.

It is Without Contradiction but Thematically Harmonious

- The Bible was written by over _____ different authors over a 1600 year time span
 1. There was no collusion between authors (i.e. they did not make sure their stories m_____ – e.g. the story of Jesus casting out demons into a herd of pigs (Matt 8:28; Mk 5:2; Lk 8:27)
 - a. Matthew records _____ men who were demon-possessed, but Mark and Luke mention one man being demon-possessed (but they do not say that there was ONLY one).
 - b. Matthew focuses on the village residents and says nothing about the two demoniacs' reaction.
 - c. Mark and Luke focus on the ONE man who, after being healed, wanted to f_____ Jesus.
 2. One major theme runs throughout the Old and New Testaments – God's unfolding plan to save humanity through the s_____ of one.
 - a. Gen 3:16 – a descendant of Eve will defeat Satan but not without being b_____
 - b. Deut 18:18 – this one would be a p_____ like Moses
 - c. Jer 23:5 – He would be from the line of D_____
 - d. Is 9:6 – He would be both a man and the Mighty G_____
 - e. Dan 9:26 – The Messiah would be cut off and have n_____ (death)
 - f. Ps 16:10 – He would not undergo d_____ (resurrection)
 - g. The New Testament – how Jesus Christ fulfills the role of the S_____; His work through the church; His finished work at His coming, the new life in the new heaven and earth.

Conclusion:

- The resurrection of Christ reinforces that the scriptures as we have it is God's word
 1. The resurrection is objective history (see: *The Resurrection, The Only Credible Explanation*)
 2. Since Jesus rose from the dead, He must be who He claimed to be and all that He says must be true.
 - a. Jesus told His apostles that the Holy Spirit would bring to mind a_____ that He taught them (Jn 14:26)
 - b. 2 Tim 3:16 is the principle – all scripture is i_____ by God (though men wrote it, God moved men so that the product is His word – compare 2 Pet 1:20,21)
- God has appeared in Christ and left us His word. ARE YOU LISTENING?