

HOME BIBLE STUDY

~ Lesson 2 ~

WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE?

The first lesson in this series looked at the question, "Why should I believe in God?" This lesson will add to the evidence for God's existence by showing that the Bible is a book that man alone could not write. This study is written to point out some of the many, powerful and self-evident reasons for believing in the Bible as being from God.

FACT 1

THE HARMONY OF THE BIBLE

The Bible is a book made up of many other books. Some focus on history, others are songs of praise, some are figurative messages and others are plainly written letters. All these books were written over a period of 1500 years. Each of the 40 authors was different. Most were Hebrews and some were Gentiles. There were fishermen, a doctor, a tax collector, kings, shepherds and vinedressers. Some parts were written in palaces, others were written from prison. The Old Testament was mainly written in Hebrew, the New Testament in Greek. Yet, every page of every book carries with it a harmony and an agreement that cannot be fully explained if this is just a work of men.

Cover to cover, the Bible writers wrote in perfect harmony with each other concerning God, man, sin, faith & works, and on countless other topics. Cover to cover, the Bible has one central theme: God's plan to save men. How did they do it? How did this happen?

Consider a contrast. When we look at other "inspired writings", we see

that they do not accomplish this kind of unity and harmony. We often find contradictions in doctrines and in practices that cannot be clearly harmonized. For example, the book of Mormon teaches that polygamy is wrong. Yet, their other "inspired writings" (The Doctrines & Covenants) teach that polygamy is right. This is a clear contradiction, not just a misunderstanding. But the Bible does not have such problems.

FACT 2

ACCURACY IN HISTORY

The Bible contains a lot of history. If it is the work of men, rather than God, it would contain many mistakes and errors. Yet, we see that the Bible is consistently and repeatedly correct, even when men at first think that it is wrong.

For example, historians used to think that Moses could not have written the first five books of the Old Law. They said this because they did not find historical information showing that writing or alphabets were used in his day. Yet, in 1901, M. J. Morgan found Hammurabi's laws. These were written on 7-foot high stone, with "cuneiform" writing. And it was discovered that this was written about 300 years BEFORE Moses. In spite of criticism, the Bible was proven correct.

Again, critics said that there was no Hittite nation. They said this because they found no record of it outside of the Bible. But, Hugo Winkler found Hattusa (the Hittite capital) in 1906. Since then, over 1,200 years of Hittite civilization have been discovered. In spite of criticism, the Bible was proven correct.

Again and again, the Bible has been questioned and proven accurate. In contrast, when other "inspired writings" are examined, we find them lacking. For example, the Hindus have writings they claim are inspired. In these writings they

mention great historical battles and events. Yet, when history is examined, there was peace, not war, in the times and places mentioned. Also, the Book of Mormon mentions great cities all over the continent of North America BEFORE Columbus. Yet, where are they? Where is one brick or stone of them? Where is one crumbled ruin or piece of a wall of these supposedly great cities? But the Bible does not have such problems.

FACT 3 ACCURACY IN SCIENCE

The Bible is not a science textbook. Yet, as with anything written, there are comments and concepts touched on that mention the workings of nature.

One good example is in the study of the oceans (Oceanography). There was a sea Captain named Matthew Fountain Maury. In 1885 AD, he was ill and he had his son read to him from Psalm 8:8. When he thought about this verse, he stated, "If the Bible says there are 'paths in the seas', then I will find them." Because of this, he began studying the oceans and discovered the ocean currents. These same currents are used as shipping lanes to this day. There is even a statue of him with sea charts in one hand and the Bible in his other. He bears the title, "Pathfinder of the sea." Psalm 8 was written around 1020 BC, some 2800 years before Maury!

Furthermore, men used to believe that the earth was flat. Aristotle (384-322 BC) was the first to believe it was round. Yet, it was not until 1520 AD that Columbus & Magellan convinced the world that the earth is round. Over 600 years before Aristotle and over 2500 years before Columbus, the writer of Proverbs 8:27 mentions the fact of the world being round. Also, around 700 BC, Isaiah 40:2 was written saying the same thing. How did these Bible writers know? While the

whole world viewed the earth as flat, what made the Bible writers teach differently? How did they know the truth when popular beliefs were contrary to the truth?

FACT 4 FULFILLED PROPHECIES

Finally, we come to prophecies. Men tend to make predictions about things; yet, men are often wrong about what they predict. For example, the Mormon "prophet" Joseph Smith predicted that they would build a temple on a specific lot in Independence, Missouri. He said that it would be completed in the generation in which he lived (mid 1800's AD). Yet, that generation has passed (along with a few others) and the Mormons have never built a temple there. Even the Bible says of prophets:

"But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him." (Deut. 18:20-22)

Thus we have positive proof that Joseph Smith was not a prophet.

Yet the Bible has never been wrong in its predictions. When it predicted the fall of Tyre (Ezekiel 26); it happened. When it predicted the fall of Samaria (Hosea 13:16; Micah 1:6); it happened. It predicted the rise and fall of several specific nations in the book of Daniel, which happened. Also, there are over 300 prophecies about the life and death of the man named Jesus Christ.

How many came true? Every last one. Even the best archer who shoots at a distant target will miss SOME of the time. But the Bible hits the "bull's-eye" every time. Is this by chance? Obviously not. Man cannot accomplish this by his own wisdom and power.

Some will respond to this, "The Bible must have been written AFTER the events happened." But history shows that this is not true. These are genuine prophecies, all of which have come true. Read Isaiah 53 as an example. It was written about 700 years before Jesus was born.

CONCLUSION

The Bible is an amazing and reliable book. It is one that cannot possibly be the result of human wisdom. There must be a Great Author behind its great pages. That being true, we must pay close attention to it and its Author.

"And for this cause we also thank God without ceasing, that, when ye received from us the word of the message, even the word of God, ye accepted it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also worketh in you that believe." (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

"Every scripture is inspired of God, and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

"Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Eph. 5:17)

Please complete the Home Bible Study questions page, then send it in to be checked. After checking it, we will return it with the next lesson in the series. Also, if you have any questions, please write them down and let us know. We are here to serve you and will point to the Bible for the answer to all things.

HOME BIBLE STUDY #2
N. Sparta church of Christ
359 North Spring Street
Sparta TN 38583

(931) 836-3321
Preacher@NSCOC.Info
<http://NSCOC.Info>