

#TRUTH PART 2 ~ CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE?

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SUNDAY JANUARY 15, 2017

(Pastor Tom's Edition of the notes for preaching. This edition may include typos, missing words, punctuation errors)

Why the Bible Can Be Trusted?

Introduction Points

- Two great disciplines: prayer and feeding in the word
- There are voices in our world today that say, "...well you really can't trust it...it's been tampered with..."
- Social Media: An Ex pastor no longer believes the Bible
- This is a basic handle, a very basic apologetic for the trustworthiness of the Bible.

1. It is **historically** accurate.

- The Bible is more than just a book of good principles, it is historically accurate
 - (Psalm 33:4) For the word of the LORD is right and true.
 - There are methods for testing the historical accuracy of any ancient text: they are not Christian methods they are methods that would apply to any writing.
 - 1. Eye witness accounts writings of the Old Testament were written by those who had personally witnessed or experienced what was recorded. For example the writers of the Gospels were written by those with first hand experience who walked with Jesus, saw and heard these things for themselves. Which is why even though they didn't collaborate their testimonies agree, because they were there. The reason we have Matthew mark Luke and John is not because there are 4 Gospels. There is one Gospel seen the 4 eye witness that give us a more complete description of what took place - rather than contradict, they compliment each other. Moses didn't
 - 2. It is copied or recorded with extreme care. It is why, in my belief God entrusted some of the most meticulous record keeping people on the planet to do this job and that is the Jewish people. The Jewish scribes had a standard that no one or earth ever has had to record history. They didn't even transcribe word for word... they transcribed letter by letter. When they transcribed the first 5 books of the Old Testament called the Pentateuch, they knew what the middle letter was of all 5 books, and when they finished transcribing it. They would

go to that middle letter, and then count in both directions, and if the number didn't match, they would throw the whole thing away, the notion that every time it was copied it was tampered with and changed is just not true.. In fact Dead Sea scroll which was not discovered until the 1940s and 1950s, when they found the latest copies of these ancient text Old Testament were found - perfect in every way to the letter. Because there was such extreme care given in the recording and in the copies

- 3) archeological confirmation of the nations described in the Bible including Jericho and evidence of a collapsed wall. They are continually finding evidence that corroborates the record of scripture

2. It is **scientifically** accurate.

God is the God of the universe, He created all of that. That's why although the Bible is not a science book per se, when the Bible speaks about the natural world or the universe it never contradicts science.

Science on the other hand changes as time goes on... it updates as they discover more. Yet the word of God never changes. Computer languages Fortran... come after 64 computer.

Why?

- (Psalm 148:5-6 NLT) Let every created thing give praise to the LORD, for he issued his command, and they came into being. He set them in place forever and ever. His decree will never be revoked.
 - That's why science changes but you don't have to update the science that's described in the Bible.. the Bible is not a science book so it doesn't use a lot of scientific language, but what's interesting is, it's still accurate scientifically
 - 1861 French academy of science society 51 incontrovertible scientific facts that prove the Bible is wrong.. and since. 1861

Not on what it says, but what it doesn't say... here was a science in the day..yet many of the things that were widely believed to be true does not show up in the Bible.

- For instance...you remember this from school even as late as Columbus 1492... some people started thinking... I think the earth may be round... clear,, but t
- (Isaiah 40:22) God sits enthroned above the circle of the earth.

The Hindus believed that the earth was rested upon the back of an elephant, that stood upon the back of a sea turtle, that stood upon the "back" of a serpent that moved through the seas.

- (Job 26:7) He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing.
- (Jeremiah 33:22 NLT) ...the stars of the sky cannot be counted.
- (Leviticus 17:11 NLT) ...for the life of the body is in its blood.

- (Leviticus 13:4 NLT) ...the priest will quarantine the person for seven days.
 - (Psalm 12:6) And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.
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3. It is **prophetically** accurate.

- (2 Peter 1:21) For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- (Matthew 26:56 NLT) “But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures.”
- (Revelation 22:6) The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

4. It is **thematically** unified.

- (Main point from last week)

(Luke 24:27) And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

5. It is **trusted** by Jesus.

- Jesus used the record of Jonah being in the belly of a fish for 3 days and 3 nights as a sign of His death, burial, and resurrection, thereby giving credibility to the account. - Matthew 12:39-41
- Jesus referenced Noah and the Ark, thereby giving credibility to the Biblical account given to Moses by God: Luke 17:26-27 NIV [26] “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. [27] People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

(Matthew 5:18) For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

6. It has **survived** all attacks.

- The French Philosopher Voltaire said of the Bible, "...100 years from now, the Bible will be extinct..
- In 1776 Voltaire said, "100 years from my day there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity-seeker." 100 years later Voltaire's home was being used as a distribution point for spreading Bibles throughout Europe* and within 26 years of his death the British & Foreign Bible Society had been founded, sparking an unprecedented era of Bible distribution**.
- In 1778 Voltaire, boasting of himself said, "It took 12 men to start Christianity; one will destroy it." That was the very year that he died*.
- Today, everyone has forgotten that quote — not the Bible! After Voltaire died, for nearly 100 years, his homestead was used as the book depository for the French Bible Society. They sold Bibles out of his house! It's now a museum. People have forgotten Voltaire. Nobody forgets the Bible.
- Robert Ingersoll said, "In 15 years I will have this book [the Bible] in the morgue." Fifteen years later, Ingersoll himself was in the morgue, and in his estate sale a preacher bought his desk and spent his life writing sermons on it*.

(1 Peter 1:24-25) "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever."

7. It has **transforming** power.

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- This one is to be tested.
- John 7:17 NIV [17] Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.
- (John 8:31-32) Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."