

Sermon 6/10/18 II Peter 1:20-21 How do we know the Bible is True?

Dear Believers in the Holy Trinity:

The Da Vinci Code

The Gospel of Judas

Some of my friends in high school

What do the above have in common?

- Each one as attacked the validity of the Holy Bible.
- The Da Vinci Code denies that Jesus was true God
- The Gospel of Judas contradicts major teachings of the Bible
- Some of my friends from high school would often say to me: “Why believe in a book written by a group of men?”

Attacks on the Bible are not new!

- The Roman emperor Diocletian some 300 years after Jesus’ birth ordered the Roman Army to destroy the Bible.
- The French philosopher, Voltaire, predicted in 1778 that within 100 years of his death most of the Bibles would be destroyed in France. 50 years after his death the Geneva Bible Society moved into his house and used his printing press to mass produce Bibles.
- One liberal pastor down in Florida challenged me to find a passage in the Bible which claimed that the Bible was perfect.
- Proverbs 30:5-6 “Every Word of God is flawless...”

II Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is God-breathed...”

Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God is living and active...”

II Peter 1:16 “We did not follow cleverly invented stories...”

Matthew Henry said: “The Bible is of much greater use and benefit to us than day or night, than the air we breathe in or the light of the sun.”

The great English preacher of the 1700’s, Spurgeon, said once about defending the Bible from attacks: “I would just as soon attempt to defend a lion. I say, Let it loose; it will defend itself.”

Napoleon, the French General of the early 1800's, who read the Bible in his later years said: "The Bible is no mere book, but a living creature, with power that conquers all that oppose it."

The Bible is God's Word

- it is absolute truth
- it is without error
- it is life
- it is reliable

How do we know?

I. Consider what the Bible says about itself...

II Peter 1:20-21 "For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man..."

The Bible is not a collection of fables or of human ideas.

- It is God's very own words given through people to people.
- God told the apostles and prophets what to write.

Jeremiah 1:9 God told the prophet "Now I have put my words in your mouth."

Remember that the Apostle Peter was an eyewitness of Jesus' life

- He spent 3 years with Jesus
- He saw Jesus' glory on the mountain of Transfiguration
- He saw Jesus arrested and put on Trial in the High Priest's courtyard
- He saw Jesus' face after he denied Jesus 3 times
- He saw Jesus empty tomb
- He saw Jesus after the Lord's resurrection
- He saw Jesus ascend into heaven
- He died for the truth of God's Word

Peter says the Bible came from God not from man.

- The Bible is not a human invention
- The Holy Spirit gave the apostles and prophets the very words to write

The Life Application Bible translates these verses: “For no prophecy recorded in Scripture was ever thought up by the prophet himself. It was the Holy Spirit within these godly men who gave them true messages from God.”

The Bible was not created by man.

The men who wrote the Bible were only the mouthpieces of the Holy Spirit.

- Luke 1:70 God spoke through His prophets

What these men wrote came only and wholly from God!

- I Thessalonians 2:13 Thessalonians received the Word of God not as of men but as of God Himself

The Bible is unique...

- No book ever spoke like this Book
- No book has ever been scrutinized down to its every particle like this one
- No book has ever had such intensive and extensive commentaries written about it
- No book has ever experienced such assaults as this one
- No book has ever survived every attack as this one

II. What evidence do we have to show that the Bible is trustworthy?

A. We know the Bible is reliable because Jesus said it is:

- Matthew 5:18 “...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.”

John 10:34-35 “Scripture cannot be broken.”

B. The prophecies or predictions of the Bible prove it is supernatural. Predictions by the Bible made 100’s of years prior to their fulfillment have been fulfilled in detail.

Jeremiah 28:9 God's prophecies always come true

One clear example: Ezekiel 26:14

- this is a prophecy about the ancient city of Tyre
- this prophecy was made by Ezekiel who lived about 600 years before Jesus was born
- At the time of Ezekiel's prophecy Tyre was a thriving city
 - it was a wealthy city
 - it was known as a world-class city
 - it was called "the proud queen of the sea"
 - What did Ezekiel say would happen to this great city? READ verse 14
 - The spot upon which the city stood would become a bare rock for fishing nets

How was this prediction fulfilled?

- A few years after Ezekiel's prediction, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, attacked Tyre which Ezekiel predicted 26:6-7
- 1000's of people were killed by Nebuchadnezzar
- The survivors fled into the sea and built a city, the new Tyre, on an island a half a mile away
- 250 years later Alexander the Great came along and tore down the remaining walls and buildings of the original city of Tyre and threw the stones and lumber into the water
- This rubble was used to build a causeway across the water to attack the new Tyre. This, too, was predicted by Ezekiel 26:12
 - the old city of Tyre on the mainland was leveled and made a bare rock
 - the new city of Tyre out into the sea was attacked and destroyed by Alexander

What about the fishnets on the bare rock?

- Back in the 1970's someone I know visited this ancient city
- He took a picture of that spot
- What did the picture show?
 - It showed nets spread out on the flat rock that once had been the proud city of Tyre.
 - Ezekiel 26:5

- “The fall of Tyre is an impressive sermon on the vanity of all earthly things...”

C. Archaeology has confirmed the Bible.

- Sodom and Gomorrah were believed not to be real cities until a map was found with these cities listed on it.
- The Hitites were a people not believed to exist until their city was uncovered.

D. Historical documents have confirmed the Biblical record.

- the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 confirmed the accuracy of the Old Testament
- There are more early Greek manuscripts for the New Testament than any other book from ancient history.

E. The Bible is the most influential book in the world. It has been translated into more languages and changed more lives than any other book.

- ie The story of the hunter in Africa and the former cannibal who was reading the Bible. He said to the hunter: “If the Bible had not changed me, I would be having you for lunch.”
- The hunter had told the former cannibal that the reading the Bible does no good.

40 different authors over 1600 years

F. The Bible shows complete unity in content despite being written by 40 different people over a period of 1600 years.

God is the author not man.

G. Miracles done by the prophets and apostles confirmed that God was working through them – They were simply God’s spokesmen.

Hebrews 2:3b-4 God testified to it by signs, wonders and miracles

What do we do with the Bible?

- Job 23:12 I have treasured the words of His mouth
- Psalm 119:103 How sweet are Your promises
- Revelation 1:3 Blessed is the one who reads the words

Charles Pinnock: “The Bible is our divine teacher by means of which God Himself meets, instructs, saves and corrects us.”

Where do you go when you...feel down, worry, doubt, are overwhelmed, sense danger...

Psalm 119:105 Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.