



Part 1 (Lesson 5)

The Importance of God's Word: Part 1

I. The Authority of God's Word

Everything we believe, hold to, and abide by in the Christian life is based on the Word of God. When we give our lives to Jesus, His Word becomes our spiritual food, our standard, our judge, our road map, etc. The rest of our life on earth is a process of learning and applying God's Word. It is sad to say that many churches and preachers do not believe that all of the Bible is God's Word. For us to live a correct Christian life, we must believe the whole Bible is God's Word and make it our absolute authority.

A. How much of the Bible is inspired by God? (2 Timothy 3:16) **(All of the Bible)**

B. How was scripture written according to 2 Peter 1:20-21? **(Men who were moved by the Holy Spirit spoke for God)**

C. What did Jesus say about His Word in Matthew 24:35? **(His Word will never pass away)**

D. What did Jesus say about how God feels about the Bible in Revelation 22:18-19?
(There will be severe consequences for anyone who adds to or takes away from the Bible)

E. According to these scriptures, what can change God's Word? **(God's Word is unchanging and nothing or no one will be able to change it)**

II The Dependability of God's Word

There are many things that prove that the Bible is God's Word and is dependable. Here are a few. (You are encouraged to watch and listen to "Faith & Reason Made Simple" Sessions 5 & 6 to gain greater understanding of these confirming areas of evidence.)(To obtain a copy of the "Faith & Reason Made Simple" video series go to localchurchapologetics.org)

A. The Internal Unity of the Bible

- * Written by 40 Authors over a 1,500 year period in 3 languages yet -
- * Amazing unity of message throughout from Genesis 1 – Revelation 22
- * Old Testament linked beautifully in many ways to the New Testament
- * Jesus Christ is the central character of the entire Bible
(Types & Shadows in the O.T.) (Prophecies in the O.T.) (Directly in the N.T.)

B. The Bibliographical Evidence

- * Bibliographical evidence points to the reliability of the Bibles that we read today
- * More Bibliographical evidence for the Bible than any other ancient writings by far
- * Tremendous care was given over the centuries to protect the purity of the Bible

C. Archaeological Evidence

- * Over the past 175 years Archaeology has consistently confirmed people, places and events spoken of in the Bible

D. Medical Facts & Information Found in the Bible

- * Medical facts discovered by modern medicine in the past 300 years
- * E.G. – Book of Leviticus – Great emphasis on the danger of germs
- * E.G. – Leviticus 17:11 – Life is in the blood
- * E.G. – Leviticus 12:3 – Circumcise baby boys on the 8th day of their life

E. Scientific Facts & Information Found in the Bible

- * Scientific facts discovered by modern science in the past 300 years
- * E.G. - The Earth is a Sphere (Round) – Isaiah 40:22
- * E.G. - The Universe is Expanding – Isaiah 40:22, Job 9:8, Zechariah 12:1
- * E.G. – There are paths in the Seas (Oceans) – Psalm 8:8

F. Hundreds of Fulfilled Prophecies in the Bible

- * Over 300 Messianic Prophecies fulfilled by Jesus Christ
 - * World Empires (Daniel 2, 7, 8 & 11)
 - * Destruction of major ancient cities such as Tyre, Babylon and Petra
 - * End Time Prophecies (Matthew 24)(Revelation 13:16-18)(2 Timothy 3)(Etc.)
 - * Prophecies of the Jews returning to Israel and the land of Israel blossoming –
- * Ezekiel 36:24; Isaiah 11:11-12; Amos 9:14-15; Zechariah 10:8-9; Jeremiah 29:11-14
What does the Bible say will happen to the people of Israel? **(They will be scattered to the nations (Zechariah 10:9) and then they will be regathered to the land of Israel by God and will restore the land.)**
(Compare this to what has happened in the last 100 years in Israel – The Jewish people have returned to Israel from the nations of world. Israel became a nation again on May 14, 1948 (see Isaiah 66:8) The Jewish population of Israel in 1948 was about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million which represented 6% of the total worldwide Jewish population. By 2020 the Jewish population of Israel was over 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ million and represented over 45% of the worldwide Jewish population. Amazing! Bible prophecy is clearly coming to pass in our lifetime.)
- * Ezekiel 36:8-12; Ezekiel 36:33-36 – What does the Bible say will happen to the land of Israel in the last days? **(The land will come back to life, will blossom and bring forth abundant fruit. Also, the cities will be rebuilt and restored.)**
(Compare this to what has happened in the land of Israel over the past 100 years! Again, we see Bible prophecy being clearly fulfilled in our lifetime.)
- * Zechariah 12:1-3; Zechariah 14:1-3 – Notice what city the Bible predicted 2,500 years ago would be the focus of the nations in the last days. **(Jerusalem)**
How does this fit with what we see in the world we live in today? **(Jerusalem is clearly the most contentious place in the entire world. The focus of the nations upon Jerusalem has continued to increase as the U.S. has acknowledged Jerusalem as Israel's capital and as Islamic leaders speak of retaining Jerusalem as a goal of Islam.)**

Bible prophecies that were written 2,500 – 3,500 years ago and are being fulfilled in the world today provide great evidence that confirm the Bible is the Word of God!

G. The Changed Lives of Millions of People

- * The Disciples of Jesus and the New Testament believers
- * Millions throughout the past 2,000 years
- * Hundreds of Millions in China despite intense persecution in the last 75 years

* Hundreds of Millions in Africa despite persecution and difficulties

H. The Indestructibility & Distribution of the Bible

* Emperors and nations have attempted to eliminate the Bible unsuccessfully

* The Bible is by far the most widely printed and distributed book of all time

As you consider what you have looked at in this lesson about the Bible consider what place the Bible should have in your life. Also consider the need that people today in America and in other nations have for the Bible in their lives. As you think about these things also consider 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 and how it relates to our need for the Bible. Write some of your thoughts here as you prayerfully consider these things.

(Note – 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 speaks of great deception that will be prevalent in the last days. It tells us that this deception will capture those who did not love the truth. Loving the truth which is found in the Bible is the greatest protection against deception in the last days.) (Note – This lesson includes information that is an example of Christian apologetics which involves evidence to assist us in knowing “why” we believe what we believe. See 1 Peter 3:15 to understand the need for apologetics in our Christian life. The book and video series “Faith & Reason Made Simple” is designed to equip believers with basic Christian apologetics in 3 key areas (Creation vs. Evolution) (How We Know the Bible is the Word of God) & (The Person of Jesus Christ). You are strongly encouraged to pursue some resource of apologetics to strengthen your own faith and to enable you to help other believers in strengthening their faith.) _____
