

The Bible is From God

Int.

1. Aim: To show that the book we have is really from God.
2. "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." 2 Pet. 1:21
3. These men were inspired by God to give us the information we need - II Tim. 3:16-17
4. This lesson will prove that the Bible is the accurate, divine, God breathed, holy, inerrant, infallible, inspired, reliable, sacred, trustworthy, written revelation from Almighty God!
5. The skeptics / doubters are invited to thoroughly investigate the Bible!
 - a. The Bible does not fear Investigation!
 - b. When the skeptic finishes his investigation, he will come to one conclusion: The Bible really is the divine, God-breathed, holy, inerrant, infallible, inspired, sacred, written revelation from Almighty God!
6. The Bible really is the product of God!
7. For those who already believe the Bible really is the product of God, this lesson will help reinforce your confidence in the Bible!
8. Luke 8:12, "Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."
 - a. The Devil does not want anyone to believe the Bible came from God because when a person believes that the Bible came from God then he will believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, he will then become a Christian, he will not go to Hell.
 - b. The fact that he is not going to Hell means that he will not be with the Devil, and that means the Devil will have one less soul with Him forever!
 - c. The Devil does all he can to destroy belief in the Bible because he knows that the Word of God produces faith (Romans 10:17)--faith in Christ which leads to salvation!
9. Voltaire (1694-1778), the French atheist said, "If we would destroy the Christian religion, we must first of all destroy man's belief in the Bible."
10. We believe the Bible is from God because...

Discussion

I. THE MANUSCRIPTS WERE ACCURATE

- A. The original writings of the Bible were in Hebrew and Greek.
 - 1. They were written on papyrus and leather scrolls called parchment or vellum
 - 2. And we have copies of the originals,

- B. The Masoretes, Jewish scholars, who existed from the 3rd century B.C. to 1425, exercised great care in copying the Old Testament Scriptures. They had a system to ensure the accurate copying of the original Hebrew manuscripts:
 - 1. The new copy was examined and carefully checked with the original. If only one incorrect letter was discovered, the whole copy was rejected.
 - 2. Each new copy had to be made from an approved manuscript.
 - 3. The writer had to pronounce aloud each word before writing it.
 - 4. In no case was the word to be written from memory.

- C. They counted not only the words, but every letter of their copy, and how many times each letter occurred. comparing everything with the original text before them.
 - 1. They found the middle clause and letter of each book and how many times each letter of the alphabet occurs in all the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - 2. The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1946-47, contained a copy of Isaiah that dates to about 100 BC. This manuscript is about 1,000 years older than the previous ones, but there are very few variations in the text. This proves that they copied these texts very carefully.
 - 3. God, in His providence, has guarded His Word.

- D. The Bible is from God because...

II. **THE BIBLE ITSELF CLAIMS TO BE THE PRODUCT OF GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

- A. II Timothy 3:15-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” v. 16
1. The Greek word translated “is given by inspiration of God” literally reads: “divine breathed”.
 - a. When writing the Scriptures, the writers were under the inspiration of God.
 - b. At the time of writing, God so possessed their bodies to write the very words He wanted written, it was as if God was living in their bodies breathing through them.
 - c. The Scriptures were written under the inspiration of God from beginning to end.
- B. II Peter 1:20—21 “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”
1. The Greek word translated “interpretation” literally reads: “origination”.
 - a. The Scriptures did not originate in the minds of the writers.
 - (1) No Prophet of God ever started a prophecy himself. Every prophecy was of divine origin.
 - (2) Being of divine origin, the Bible is called “the Word of God”. Jesus used these words in Mark 7:13.
 - b. If the Bible was only the product of man, man would have since that time produced another Bible at least as good since the technology of man has improved so much. But, man has not produced another Bible because man alone never produced the only one there is!
 2. Peter was not speaking against personal interpretation of the Scriptures as the Roman Catholic Church teaches, but was simply pointing out that not any prophecy in the Scriptures was ever written without divine inspiration.
- C. The writers of the Scriptures were powerfully guided and directed by the Holy Spirit. They did not write through the guidance of hearsay, but through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- D. The Bible is from God because of...

III. THE PRESERVATION OF THE BIBLE

- A. The Bible is indestructible!
- B. Isaiah 40:8 NKJV “The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”; Matthew 24:35; “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” I Peter 1:24-25. “because “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”
- C. The Bible is the only book which so great a number of men have tried to destroy. The Bible has been denied, denounced, dishonored, disobeyed, disregarded, and dissected.
1. In 303 A.D. the Roman Emperor, Diocletian, issued a royal edict which demanded that every copy of the Bible be surrendered and destroyed by fire. Twenty years later (323 A.D.) the Roman Emperor, Constantine, ruled with the Bible exalted as the truth!
 2. Voltaire, a French infidel, said; “While it took 12 men to write Christianity up, I will show that it takes but one man to write it down!” Taking his pen, he dipped it into the ink of unbelief and wrote against God.
 - a. He died in 1778.
 - b. Voltaire stated that 100 years from his death a person would be able to find a copy of the Bible only in museums because the Bible would become a dead book!
 - c. Since Voltaire’s death, millions of copies of the Bible have been printed. The demand for Bibles increases. The eternal Book lives on while Voltaire’s works have yet to reach a complete English edition! Just before his death, Voltaire stated, “I wish I had never been born!”
- D. At a meeting of infidels, one person said, “Until we find something to replace the Bible, we had better not destroy it!”

- E. Something To Think About: A human being writes a book, puts the book up for sale, and sometimes the book soon becomes a best seller.
1. Thousands of copies are sold but before long the book is forgotten and another book takes the book's place.
 2. But, the Bible is always the top seller! The Bible is the world's most distributed book! The world's annual distribution of Bibles reaches 24,000,000 copies. More than 80,000 Bibles are sold in the world every business day.
 3. Bob Ingersoll, an American agnostic, once held a Bible high in his hand and said, "In fifteen years I will have this book in the morgue." Within fifteen years, Ingersoll's body was in the morgue!

THE ANVIL OF GOD'S WORD

Last eve I passed beside the blacksmith's door
 And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime.
 Then looking in I saw upon the floor
 Old hammers worn with beating years of time.
 "How many anvils have you had," said I
 "To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
 "Just one," said he, and then with twinkling eye,
 "The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."
 And so, I thought, the Anvil of God's Word
 For ages skeptic blows have beat upon.
 Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
 The Anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone!

- F. The Bible is from God because it cannot be destroyed.

IV. ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

- A. Every archaeological discovery is a message from the dead!

- B. For years the existence of a people known as the Hittites (Genesis 15:20) was doubted and denied by some. In 1906, through an archaeological discovery by Archibald Henry Sayce, records of the Hittites were found which confirmed the Bible records concerning the Hittites.

- C. According to Matthew 27:2, Pilate was the governor of Judea.
 - 1. Until 1961, no proof of this existed outside the New Testament Scriptures. In 1961, an Italian archaeological expedition was digging in Caesarea, which was the location of the Roman government in Palestine. A stone was found.
 - 2. Pilate's name was on the stone stating that he was governor of Judea.

- D. According to Luke 2:2, Cyrenius was governor of Syria when Caesar Augustus ordered his first enrollment.
 - 1. Some said that this was an obvious mistake by Luke because history proves that Cyrenius was governor after this first enrollment.
 - 2. But, archaeological discoveries have found coins with the name of Cyrenius on them.
 - 3. He was governor twice--at the time of the first enrollment and later!

- E. King Sargon is referred to in Isaiah 20:1. Some claimed he was a fictional character. But, in 1843 Botta began digging in Khorsabad and discovered the great palace of Sargon.

- F. I Kings 16:16 mentions Omri being made King of Israel.
 - 1. The Moabite Stone was discovered in 1868 East of the Dead Sea.
 - 2. This stone was cut in 850 B.C. in the reign of Mosha, King of Moab, and the stone tells of his being subjected to the Israelites.
 - 3. The stone also mentions that Omri was made King of Israel.

- G. In Daniel 5:1 Belshazzar is mentioned as a Babylonian King.
1. For years men had assumed that a complete list of all the Babylonian Kings was in existence.
 2. There was no mention of Belshazzar on this list.
 3. In 1876, Sir Henry Rawlinson discovered more than 2,000 tablets concerning Babylon. These tablets mentioned Belshazzar. He became King in the absence of his father, Nabonidus.
- H. Some have made the statement that the ability to write was not known to man when Moses is said to have written the book of Genesis. But:
1. The famous Rosetta Stone, discovered in 1799, which was written in hieroglyphics, proved that people were writing over 2,000 years prior to the time of Moses!
 2. In 1901, an engraved stone eight feet tall was discovered by the French Assyriologist Jean Vincent Scheil which contained the "Code of Hammurabi".
 3. Hammurabi was an Amorite king in Abraham's time.
 4. The "Code of Hammurabi" establishes the fact that writing existed back at the time of Abraham, 500 years before Moses!
- I. Something To Think About: Whatever archaeological discoveries have been made concerning the Bible, the Bible has always been upheld as true! Of the thousands of archaeological discoveries made, not one discovery has ever been made which proves that there is even one error in the Bible!

V. SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY

A. Flood

1. FACT: The bones of sea animals are found high on the sides of mountains. Sea shells by the millions are crazily embedded in mountain peaks!
2. BIBLE: Genesis 7:19-20

B. Earth Upheld

1. FACT: The earth is held up by invisible forces.
2. PROVEN: Some taught that the earth rested a solid foundation. Some taught that the earth rested on the backs of seven elephants which stood with their heads turned together and when they shook themselves, an earthquake was caused. It was taught that these elephants stood on the back of a huge turtle and the turtle stood on the coils of a huge snake.
3. Not until the time of Copernicus (1473-1543) was the earth proven to be held up by invisible forces.
4. BIBLE: Job 26:7 (1491 B.C.)

C. Earth is round

1. FACT: The earth is round.
2. PROVEN: For years, men taught that the earth was flat or square. Magellan and his men sailed around the earth and proved the earth to be round in 1522.
3. BIBLE: Isaiah 40:22 (698 B.C.) "Circle of the earth"

D. Life is in the Blood

1. FACT: Life is in the blood.
2. PROVEN: In 1615, Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood and that the life principle is in the blood. Prior to this, blood was thought to be the source of disease rather than life. Thus, the sick were bled in order to get rid of the particular disease. George Washington's death is said to have been hastened by "bloodletting".
3. BIBLE: Genesis 9:4 (1491 B.C.) Leviticus 17:11 (1490 B.C.)

E. Paths of the Sea

1. FACT: The oceans have natural lanes in them.
2. PROVEN: Matthew Fontaine Maury (1806-1873) was the founder of oceanography. Once when he was sick, his son read Psalm 8:8 to him. As a result of hearing this verse, he decided to find the paths in the sea. He did in 1854. Ocean liners and ships use them today!
3. BIBLE: Psalm 8:8 (1015 B.C.)

F. Empty place in North

1. FACT: There is an empty space in the north.
2. PROVEN: Astronomers have taken a giant telescope with which they can read newsprint twenty miles away, and to the north they have discovered a great empty space which has no stars or planets.
 - a. Astronomers have discovered that there is a great empty space in the north in the nebula of the constellation of Orion--a heavenly cavern so gigantic that the mind of man cannot comprehend it.
 - b. All astronomers agree there is a huge opening in Orion which is perhaps more than 16,740,000,000,000 miles in diameter.
 - c. The diameter of the earth's orbit is 156,000,000 miles. Yet, the opening into the heavenly cavern of Orion is 90,000 times as wide.
3. BIBLE: Job 2 .7

G. Something To Think About: The Bible writers were not men of science in any degree. If the Bible was simply the product of man with his wisdom, the Bible would contain the scientific beliefs of the times when they wrote!

1. The Bible was produced in a non-scientific age when belief abounded in superstition and pseudo science. Yet, none of these false ideas crept into the Scriptures!
2. When the Bible touches on scientific points the Bible is meticulously correct!
3. The Bible is from God because of...

VI. FULFILLED PROPHECY

A. Virgin Birth

1. PROPHECY STATED: Isaiah 7:14 (698 B.C.)
2. EVENT PROPHESED: Christ born of a virgin
3. FULFILLED: Matt 1:18, 22-23

B. Born in Bethlehem

1. PROPHECY STATED: Micah 5:2 (750 B.C.)
2. EVENT PROPHESED: Christ born in Bethlehem
3. FULFILLED: Matthew 2:1,4-6

C. Crucifixion: Psalm 22:16 (1015 B.C. In David's day there was no such thing known as crucifixion!)

1. EVENT PROPHESED: Crucifixion of Christ
2. FULFILLED: John 19:18

D. Prophecy is history written ahead of time!

E. Something To Think About: These prophecies by no means exhaust the list of prophecies contained in the Bible.

1. These prophecies are enough to prove that the prophecies in the Bible are not mere human guesses, but are prophecies written under the guidance of Almighty God.
2. Fulfilled prophecy is an irrefutable proof that the Bible is the product of God!
3. The writers of these prophecies did not live to see their fulfillment--a masterpiece which the mind of men could not have accomplished!

CONCLUSION

1. There has never been nor will ever be a book equal to or better than the Bible. If the Bible is merely the product of man, why has not man produced another one or one better? That which man has done, some other man eventually does better.
2. Certainly, with all the advances man has made in learning and invention since the Bible was produced, he would be able to at least produce another Bible if he in fact produced the one there is today.
3. But, the fact is, man never produced the only Holy Bible there is! The Holy Spirit, through man, produced the one and only Holy Bible.
4. When the Bible is placed beside the religious books of the East, the result is not a comparison, but a contrast!
5. The Bible is a book which has transformed humanity wherever it has gone! This book has had a greater impact upon human lives than any other book! Where has any book produced such results?
6. Psalms 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning Nov. 22, 2009
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
evanscoc@bellsouth.net
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org