

**Back to Basics**  
**Courtland Avenue Church of Christ**  
**March 16-21, 2008**

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**Why Should I Believe the Bible Is God's Word?**

**Introduction-** Some argue since many books claim to be divine, therefore none is divine (Volney, "Ruins of Empires"). Suppose a jeweler has twenty rhinestones and one diamond of great value. Can the customer reason since there are fake diamonds, there can be no real diamonds? Is the Bible the real thing? Is it God's Word? Why should I believe the Bible is God's Word?

**I. It Claims To Be God's Word**

- A. It would first be appropriate to discover what the Bible claims for itself.
- B. Of all the "sacred" texts of the major world religions, only two actually claim to be revelations from God.
- C. The Bible contains 66 books written by 40 different men over 1,500 years, yet it is unified in its purpose and theme.
  - 1. The diverse writers of the Bible simply, rationally and repeatedly claimed the words they wrote came not from themselves but from God.
  - 2. This amazing claim is made over 2,600 times in the Old Testament alone, including Moses (Ex. 20:1; Lev. 1:1; Num. 1:1; Deut. 1:3); David (2 Sam. 23:1-2); Isaiah (Isa. 1:2); Jeremiah (Jer. 10:1-2); Ezekiel (Ezk. 1:3) and virtually every other Bible writer.
- D. Jesus and the New Testament writers accepted and confirmed this claim of divine authorship (Jn. 10:35; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21).
- E. This claim includes the New Testament writings (Jn. 16:13; 2 Pet. 1:3; Gal. 1:11-12; Eph. 3:1-5).

**II. It Presents Accurate History**

- A. The Bible reveals God's plan for man, of redemption and salvation, through the history of the Jewish people.
- B. Only the Bible is historically accurate.
- C. Bible skeptics have questioned the existence of many people mentioned in the Bible including
  - 1. Belshazzar (Dan. 5),
  - 2. Pontius Pilate (Mt. 27) and
  - 3. the Hittite people (Josh. 9:1).
- D. Discoveries corroborating the historical accuracy of the Bible are frequent and numerous.

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**III. It's Always Consistent With Science**

- A. If the Bible is truly a revelation from God then we would expect it to be accurate and consistent with scientific facts.
- B. Every ancient civilization, except Israel, believed the earth to be a flat disc rigidly supported (Prov. 8:27; Isa. 40:22; Job 26:7).
- C. The Bible describes the ocean depths accurately where ancient men could not have gone or known (Job 38:16; 2 Sam. 22:16; Gen. 7:11; Prov. 8:28).
  - 1. Matthew Fontaine Maury is called "The Pathfinder of the Seas" based upon the Bible (See, Psa. 8:8).
- D. The food, health and sanitation laws of the Law of Moses (Num. 19, Deut. 23:12-13, Lev. 7-9, 11, 13-15).

**IV. It's Confirmed By Prophecy**

- A. The Bible is the only "sacred" book to use prophecy to support its claim of inspiration (Deut. 18:20-22; Isa. 41:21-23, 26; 42:9; Jn. 13:19).
- B. Over 8,000 (8,352) verses in the Bible contain prophecy.
  - 1. The Bible does not claim 60% accuracy, but 100%!
  - 2. Not one Bible prophesy has failed to come to pass (2 Pet. 1:19).
- C. Tyre was a great Phoenician trading city on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea.
  - 1. At the height of her glory, the Bible declared, her enemies would destroy her, "scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock" and "lay your stones, your timber, and your soil in the midst of the water" and become "a place for spreading nets in the midst of the sea and you shall never be rebuilt" (Ezk. 26:4, 12, 5).
  - 2. This prophecy was fulfilled by Alexander the Great.
- D. Two of the mightiest cities of the ancient world, Nineveh and Babylon were subjects of Bible prophesy (Nah.; Zeph. 2:13-15; Isa. 13:19-20; Jer. 50-51).

**Conclusion:** The Bible shines as brightly as a diamond among stones. I should believe the Bible is God's Word because of the evidence it is a unique book whose author transcended human history, knowledge and experience. The evidence shows that author and source of the Bible cannot be a man, and must be God.

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