

LESSON ONE: HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

Why You Can Believe Every Word of It

“The historical, scientific, and prophetic accuracy of Scripture, along with its life-changing qualities, offer evidence that the Bible is the revealed ‘Word of God.’”

The Bible is the only book that has the answer to man's three problems:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Not what I _____, but what I _____.

The following things depend upon the confidence you have in the Word of God:

Your _____

Your _____

Your _____

Your _____

You can know the Bible is the Word of God because of:

1. Its _____.

Before you say there are scientific errors in the Bible, make sure you know _____ and make sure you know the _____.

Commonly accepted scientific facts:

- a. The earth is suspended in _____.

Job 26:7 - "He hangs the earth on nothing."

Is That Your Final Answer?

When it comes to answering the question, "What supports the earth?" different cultures have advanced some strange theories: The ancient Egyptians believed the earth was supported by huge pillars. The Greeks believed Atlas carried the world on his shoulders. The Hindus believed the earth rested on the backs of elephants, who in turn stood on a giant tortoise, who stood on a huge coiled serpent. They all could have saved a lot of time reading Job 26:7—"He hangs the earth on nothing."

b. The earth is _____.

Isaiah 40:22 - "It is He who sits above the circle (globe) of the earth."

c. No one can count the _____.

Jeremiah 33:22 - "...the host of heaven cannot be numbered."

The Bible and Astronomy

Ptolemy was a mathematician and astronomer that lived from 127-145 AD. His findings that there were 1026 stars, and that the planets and the sun revolved around the earth were accepted as scientific fact for centuries.

In 1609, an Italian nobleman named Galileo Galilei perfected a telescope capable of seeing into the heavens far beyond the scope of the unaided human eye. His discovery of millions of stars confirmed what the Bible states in Jeremiah 33:22: "The host of heaven cannot be numbered." His findings reinforced his support for the views of Copernicus that the solar system revolved around the sun. Such a view was considered heretical at the time, and Galileo spent his remaining years under house arrest.

d. The _____ circulates in the body.

Not until 1615 William Harvey discovered the blood circulates bled George Washington to death.

Leviticus 17:14 - "...For the life of all flesh is its blood. "

2. Its _____ .

Dr. Driver: "Moses could not have written the Pentateuch—at the time Moses lived, men did not know how to write."

Tel el Amarna tablets—letters of correspondence—centuries before Moses

3. Its _____ .

Written by 40 different _____

Over a period of _____

From 13 different _____

4. Its _____ .

Jesus fulfilled more than 300 Old Testament prophecies:

- Micah 5:2 - He would be born in Bethlehem
- Isaiah 7:14 - He would be born of a virgin
- Psalm 22 - Description of the crucifixion
- Isaiah 53: 9-12 - Crucified between thieves
- Zechariah 11:12, fulfilled in Matthew 26:15 - Betrayed by Judas for 30 pieces of silver

Many prophecies fulfilled not by friends, but by enemies.

Matthew 26:56 - "But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."

Crucifixion

Psalm 22 prophesied the crucifixion of Jesus in 600 BC: "For dogs have surrounded me; The assembly of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet." What makes the prophecy so amazing is that the Jews used stoning as their method for capital punishment. Crucifixion was practiced hundreds of years later, primarily by the Romans.

- 5. Its _____ .
- 6. Its _____ .
 - a. Saving to the _____
 - b. Sweet for the _____
 - c. Sufficient for the _____
 - d. Satisfying to the _____

LESSON ONE: DAY ONE

God's Revelation

It is absolutely imperative that you are certain of God's Word. You will never get much of anything else settled until you are sure of the Bible. Your salvation depends on it, since the Bible says you are born again by "the Word of God" (1 Peter 1:23). Your sanctification depends upon it, because Jesus said, "Sanctify them with Your truth. Your Word is truth" (John 17:17). Your usefulness depends on it, for the Scriptures say, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that you might know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13). If you want to be sure of your faith; if you want to be an exclamation point rather than a question mark, then you need to be certain that the Bible is the Word of God.

God takes His Word seriously. So should we. Read the following passage:

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book. And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Revelation 22:18-19)

What principles about the Bible can you glean from the following passages?

1. **2 Chronicles 17:9**

2. **Joshua 1:8**

3. **Psalms 119:4**

4. **Nehemiah 1:7-9**

5. **Psalms 119:89**

LESSON ONE: DAY TWO

Believe It!

...from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16)

God makes it very clear that we are to believe and revere our Bibles, but there is in our world a war over the Word; a battle over the Bible. There are those who despise it; they are against all that we Christians stand for. There are those who deny it; they simply refuse to believe the Bible is the Word of God. There are those who distort it; they twist the words of the Bible to their own destruction. There are those who dissect it, treating Scripture more like a math text than a love story. There are those who disregard it, claiming it unimportant and irrelevant. They want to focus on the here-and-now, so they spend their energies making this world a better place from which to go to hell.

There are those who claim to believe it, giving lip service to the Bible as God's Word, but they do not know it, nor do they live by it. There is dust on their Bibles and drought in their hearts. Finally, there are those who believe it. They know the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible, authentic Word of God, and they trust it for the daily guidance of their lives. We can have a firm assurance that the Bible is the Word of God. There is an abundance of evidence to support the fact.

What did Jesus say about the Scriptures in Matthew 22:29, Luke 24:44, and John 5:39?

What further truth do we learn in 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:20-21?

LESSON ONE: DAY THREE

Standing on the Promises

Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. (Psalm 119:89)

God's Word is the firm foundation that we as believers build our lives upon. It is trustworthy not only in areas of spiritual truth, but in all areas in which it speaks, including science and history.

Skeptics seem to think that the Bible is full of scientific errors. However, before an individual can make that assertion, they had better make sure they know science *and* Scripture. It is true that the Bible is not primarily written to teach us about science, but to teach us about God. However, the God of salvation and the God of creation are the same. Science doesn't take God by surprise. A close look at Scripture reveals that it is scientifically accurate.

Every now and then science may disagree with the Bible, but usually science just needs time to catch up. For example, in 1861 a French scientific academy printed a brochure offering 51 incontrovertible facts that proved the Bible in error. Today there is not a single reputable scientist who would support those supposed "facts," because modern science has disproved them all!

The Bible is not primarily a history book, but it records history, and all the things we believe as Christians are historical facts. Historians have criticized the Bible as being filled with errors, but in our lifetime we have seen the history of the Scriptures proven right time after time.

For years historians claimed Daniel's story of King Belshazzar was a fake, that there was no record of that Babylonian king. They claimed that the last Babylonian King was named Nabonidus, and that Belshazzar never existed. Then one day an archeologist uncovered a clay tablet describing the rule of Belshazzar, who was co-regent with his father, King Nabonidus. The Bible had been right all along.

Read Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. List the predictions of Jesus' crucifixion that are fulfilled in the gospel accounts of Matthew 27 and Mark 15:

Scripture and Shakespeare

Modern scholars believe they have a fairly exact rendering of Shakespeare’s “Hamlet,” since a handful of copies of the play made within 200 years of its original writing exist. But the New Testament is without question the most well documented book in history. There are 25,000 documents supporting its text, some made within 30 years of the original writing.

LESSON ONE: DAY FOUR

A Lamp Unto My Feet

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path. (Psalm 119:105 KJV)

As we walk by faith into what seems at times like total darkness, the Bible is the lamp that lights our way. If you had to walk home through the woods on a dark, moonless night, you would, no doubt, want the strongest flashlight you could find. Even then, you would not be able to see very far into the distance—only enough to make sure you are on the path and headed in the right direction. How then, could you complete your journey with a flashlight that only illuminates a few yards ahead? You would simply start walking in the light that you have. As you would continue to walk with the flashlight in your hand, more and more of the path would be continually revealed, until you arrived home safely.

God's Word is the believer's flashlight, revealing our way as we walk the path God has laid out in front of us. As God's Spirit guides you day by day through the “great adventure” He has prepared for you, study the Scriptures and let them shine His light into your darkness.

Read the following passages and list the ways these men and women let God's Word guide their way.

Solomon: 1 Kings 6:11-1

David: Psalm 18:30

Mary: Luke 1:38

John: Revelation 1:9

LESSON ONE: DAY FIVE

The Sword of the Spirit

...the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. (Ephesians 6:17)

In the classic passage on spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6, Paul describes the Word of God as a sword. In telling believers how to prepare themselves to stand firm against the attacks of the enemy, several defensive weapons are mentioned: the shield of faith, the breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation.

However, only one offensive weapon is mentioned: the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

The Christian who studies God's word as a daily habit will be able not only to defend himself, but to go on the offensive against error and the wicked lies of Satan.

For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

Many times truth is mixed with error, and those who are immature are easily deceived. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that the Word of God will help us to divide between soul and spirit; joints and marrow. That is, the student of God's Word will be able to get below the surface to the real heart of the matter, and separate fact from fiction; truth from error.

Read the account of Satan's temptation of Jesus in Luke 4:1-13.

When Satan asked Jesus to turn stones into bread, what was the temptation to do wrong?

How did Jesus use God's Word to counter this temptation?

In the second temptation, Satan asked Jesus to worship him. In what ways are we tempted today to worship other “gods” besides the Lord?

How does God's Word keep us from worshiping the idols of this world?
