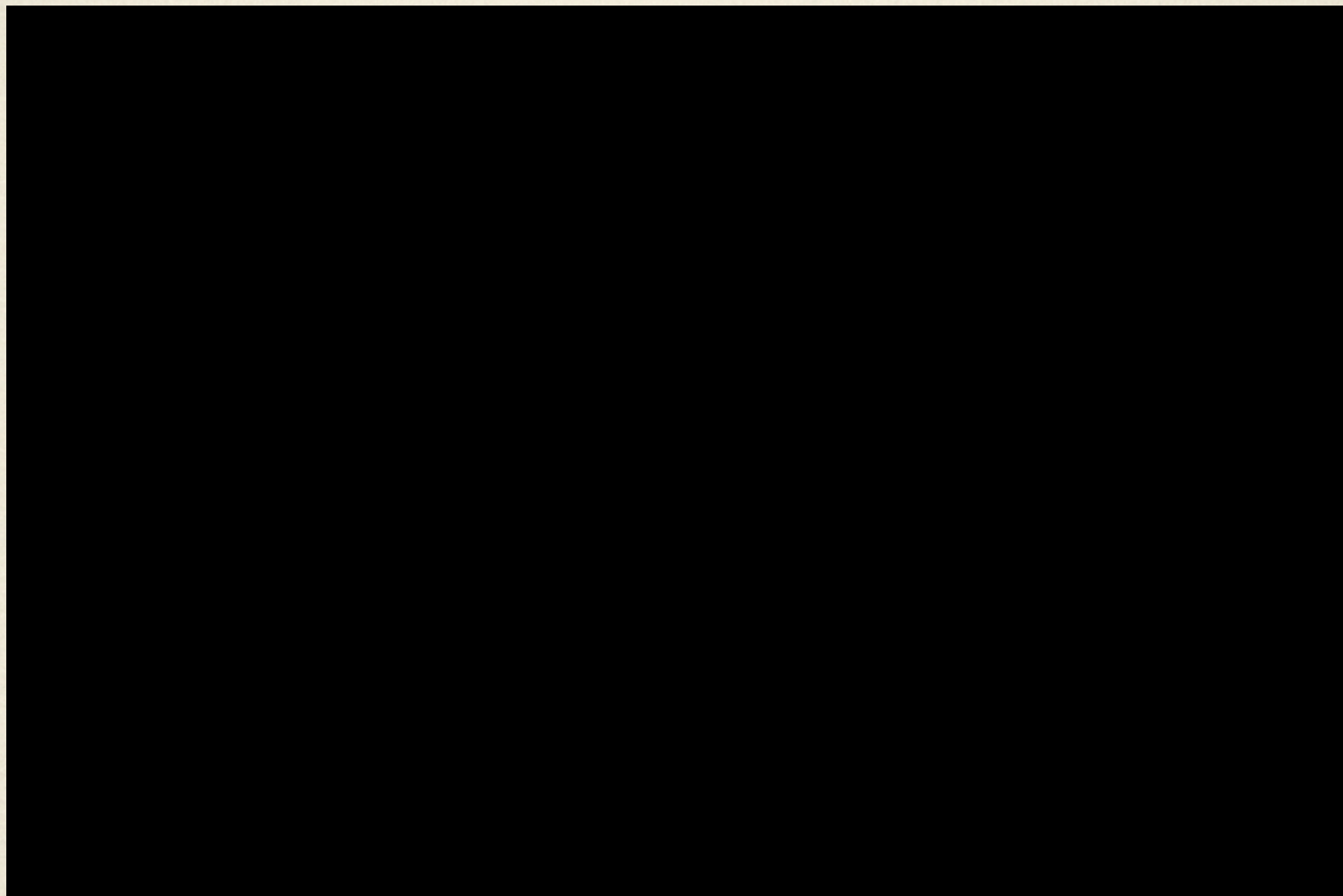


Is it Just a Book?





Is it Just a Book?



What does the Bible claim
about itself?

How was the Bible written?

- ❖ 2 peter 1:21
- ❖ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit

How much of scripture is inspired?

- ❖ 2 Timothy 3:16
- ❖ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...

What is Truth?

- ❖ John 17:17
- ❖ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

How do we get to know Jesus? How do we obtain eternal life?

- ❖ John 5:39-40
- ❖ You search the scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to me that you may have life.

- ❖ The Bible claims that it is written by men who were directed by God
- ❖ The Bible claims that it is inspired
- ❖ The Bible claims it is truth
- ❖ The Bible claims it is how we get to know Jesus
- ❖ The Bible claims that when we get to know Jesus then we may have eternal life

That Makes it Different

Why can we believe these
claims?

1. Science

Earth...Flat or Round?

- ❖ Isaiah 40:22
- ❖ It is He who sits above the circle of the earth...

The Earth Rests on What?

❖ Job 26:7

❖ ...He hangs the earth on nothing

2. History

The Hittites and Nineveh

- ❖ Deuteronomy 7:1 - Hittites
- ❖ Jonah 1:1 - Nineveh
- ❖ For years skeptics said there was no such nation as the Hittites and that the city of Nineveh existed. It is common historical knowledge today that these have existed in the past.

New Testament in History

- ❖ Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures of a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from who the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontious Paltus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their center and become popular
- ❖ Tacitus[Annals 15.44]

3. Archaeology

A Sample

- ❖ Norman Geisler *Systematic Theology Vol.1* pg. 457
- ❖ The excavation of Gezer in 1969 ran across a massive layer of ash that covered most of the mound. Sifting through the ash yielded pieces of Hebrew, Egyptian and Philistine artifacts. Apparently all three cultures had been there at the same time, which puzzled researchers greatly until they realized that the Bible told them exactly what they had found. (See 1 Kings 9:16)

No evidence against...

- ❖ Nelson Glueck *Rivers in the Desert* pg. 31
- ❖ As a matter of fact...it may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible.

Ebla Tablets

- ❖ Creation Story
- ❖ Flood Story
- ❖ Abraham and Isaac
- ❖ Sodom and Gomorra

4. Internal Consistency

(unity)

Unified Collection of Books

- ❖ The Bible is a collection of 66 works
- ❖ Written on 3 different continents
- ❖ Written in 3 different languages
- ❖ by approximately 40 different people
- ❖ The people all from different social and economic classes many of whom never met
- ❖ Written over a period of 1,500 years
- ❖ On the most controversial subject

Unified Collection of Books

- ❖ Yet, the sixty six books of the Bible maintain harmony with each other, never undermining what the other Bible writers said on the same subject.

5. Prophecy

Cyrus

❖ Isaiah 44:27-45:1

Cyrus

- ❖ This prediction was made 150 years before Cyrus was even born
- ❖ Isaiah lived between about 740 and 690 B.C.
- ❖ Cyrus did not make his proclamation until about 536 B.C.
- ❖ Cyrus cylinder confirms this record

Tyre

❖ Ezekiel 26:3-14

Tyre

- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city and left it in ruins. But only fulfilled part of the prophecy
- ❖ Alexander the Great attacked the island of Tyre by ordering the stones, dust and timber (of the ruins of the mainland city) to be used as a causeway to the island. So the city was scraped into the sea. Not only has the city not been rebuilt but it is used today as a place to spread fishing nets.

Propaganda?

Fairness

- ❖ Bible does not cover up sins of its characters
- ❖ Pharaohs never look real in their hieroglyphics (they are painted in the best light)
- ❖ History of Israel failed God often (bad propaganda)

Always condemned by tyrants

- ❖ History shows that the tyrants of the ages condemned the Bible
- ❖ From The Caesars to the dark ages until modern times
- ❖ Why would those trying to control the populace ban that which they want

The Cannon

[illegible]

Incorrect View	Correct View
The church is determiner of canon	The church is discoverer of canon
The church is mother of canon	The church is child of canon

Relationship of Church and Canon

Incorrect View	Correct View
The church is magistrate of canon	The church is minister of canon
The church is regulator of canon	The church is recognizer of canon

[illegible]

Incorrect View	Correct View
The church is judge of canon	The church is witness of canon
The church is master of canon	The church is servant of canon

How to Discover Canon

- ❖ Was the book written by a prophet of God?
- ❖ Was the writer confirmed by acts of God?
- ❖ Does the message tell the truth about God?
- ❖ Did it come with the power of God?
- ❖ Was it accepted by the people of God?

Initial Acceptance

- ❖ Moses' books immediately put in the ark
- ❖ Joshua's immediately added followed by Samuel and others
- ❖ Daniel had a copy of Moses and the Prophets including Jeremiah who was a contemporary
- ❖ Paul quoted the Gospel of Luke as scripture
- ❖ Peter had a collection of Paul's letters

Later Acceptance

- ❖ The presence of a book in the canon down through the centuries is evidence that it was known by contemporaries of the prophet who wrote it to be genuine and authoritative.
- ❖ Later people discussed the authenticity of these books. (Marcion)

Later Councils

- ❖ All the councils did was to give later, broader, and final recognition to the facts that God had inspired the books, and the people of God had accepted them.

What is the Apocrypha

- ❖ biblical or related writings not forming part of the accepted canon of Scripture.

Why they are not in Cannon

- ❖ No apocryphal book claims to be written by a prophet. (1 Mac. 9:27 disclaims it)
- ❖ There is no supernatural confirmation of any of the writers of the apocryphal books, as there is for the prophets who wrote canonical books

Why they are not in Cannon

- ❖ There is no predictive prophecy
- ❖ There is no new messianic truth
- ❖ The Jewish community acknowledges that the prophetic gift had ceased in Israel before the Apocrypha was written

Why they are not in Cannon

- ❖ The books were never listed in the Jewish Bible along with the “Prophets” or any other section for that matter
- ❖ Never once is any apocryphal book cited authoritatively by a prophetic book written after it. Taken together, this provides overwhelming evidence that the Apocrypha was not prophetic and, therefore, should not be part of the canon of Scripture

Witnesses?

- ❖ Philo (20 B.C. - A.D.40) a Jewish teacher quoted the from all the Old Testament books but never quoted the Apocrypha as inspired
- ❖ Josephus (A.D.30-100) a Jewish historian explicitly excludes the Apocrypha in numbering the Old Testament books. He also never quotes it as Scripture

Witnesses?

- ❖ Jesus and the New Testament writers never once quote the Apocrypha as Scripture, even though they were aware of them and alluded to them. Yet, the New Testament writers have hundreds of citations from the Canonical Scriptures.

What about Gnostic Gospels

- ❖ The Gnostic Gospels were discovered in Nag Hammadi, Egypt, near Cairo in 1945 and translated into English in 1977. The most famous of there is the Gospel of Thomas that has 114 sayings of Jesus

Problems for Gnostic Gospels

- ❖ The canonical Gospels are dated at 60-100 A.D. Gnostic Gospels appeared nearly a century later.
- ❖ The canonical Gospels were written by people who were close to eye witnesses of Jesus and they also present the same overall picture of Jesus

Problems for Gnostic Gospels

- ❖ A common body of books were cited by the Fathers in the second century. The Gospels, Acts, and 1 Corinthians were some of these. The Fathers also considered the Gospels and Paul's epistles to be on par with the inspired Old Testament. The Fathers vouched for the accuracy of the canonical Gospels in the early second century before the gnostic gospels were written in the late second century.

Conclusion of Gnostic Gospels

- ❖ The evidence for authenticity does not compare with the New Testament
- ❖ New Testament is 1st century books, Gospel of Thomas is a mid 2nd century book
- ❖ The New Testament is verified by numerous lines of evidence that the Gnostic Gospels does not have
- ❖ Gnostic Gospels contradict the proven canonical Gospels

Why Study the Bible?

The Bible is able to teach us?

- ❖ 2 Timothy 3:15
- ❖ and that from childhood you have made know the holy scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

What is the Bible profitable for?

- ❖ 2 Timothy 3:16
- ❖ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

What may man become?

- ❖ 2 Timothy 3:17
- ❖ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

In what way does the Bible help us?

- ❖ Psalm 119:105
- ❖ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

What does the Bible keep us from?

- ❖ Psalm 119:11
- ❖ Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

- ❖ The Bible teaches us about salvation
- ❖ The Bible helps us by teaching us doctrine, by rebuking us, by correcting us and instructing us to go in the right way
- ❖ The Bible makes us to be complete filled with good works
- ❖ The Bible is a guide in our life
- ❖ The Bible keeps us from not sinning

What can a book do?





Just Believe, Why?



Is He Just a Man?



Where is God?