

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE? Part 2

“The Witness of the Biblical Writers”

INTRO: Series slide. Goal . . . Last session entered courtroom where the Scripture’s reliability is on trial. The Bible is the defendant. One by one witnesses giving evidence that support (not prove! Work of H.S.) that the Bible is trustworthy. The first witness and the most important one is the Author Himself. If He can be trusted to never lie, then what He authors should be trusted, too. God is Truth (in Jesus and His Word). He says He wrote this over 3800 times . . . We can only trust the Bible to be true if we can trust its Author to be truthful. TODAY . . . I BELIEVE . . . Let’s bring our next confidence-building witness to the stand, The Biblical writers themselves.

• THEIR UNITY OF BIBLE IS MIRACULOUS

The word “Bible” is not in Bible. Bible is not one book but 66 different books by 40 different writers across three continents and in three languages and over 1500-plus years from varied backgrounds and vocations with unique personalities, etc. How is it possible for the Bible to have such a unique structure and unity? Common THEME? God is real and has revealed Himself through His Son (Jn. 5:39; Lk. 24:25-27). Salvation through Christ is common thread. How happen? Divine inspiration (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21) ILLUS: Josh McDowell “Find ten people . . .”

• TESTIMONY OF BIBLICAL WRITERS

I. “DID THE OT WRITERS BELIEVE THEY WERE RECEIVING AND RECORDING THE VERY WORDS OF GOD?” 3800 plus times you read their words like . . . that many witnesses would be irrefutable in any court of law! They claimed without apology to be writing the very words of God. Ex? Deut. 4:2; 6:1-2, 6-9; Jer. 1:2, 4 (13 of 16 major or minor prophets say, “The Word of the Lord came.”

II. WHAT DID THE NT WRITERS BELIEVE ABOUT THE OT?”

- A. Titles – “The Scripture” used to refer to OT writings (83 times). “It is written” 317 times, with over 90 times in Gospels (Matt. 4:1-11; Mk. 9:13; 14:21). Plus, Luke in Acts (8:35; 17:2, 11; 18:24); John (19:35-36; 21:24), and Paul in places.
- B. Quotes – At least 320 direct quotes in NT from OT. If add paraphrases to OT over 1000 in all. Paul quotes OT often (Deut. 25:4 in 1 Tim. 5:18 calling it “the Scripture” He did so 180 times in all but two of his letters. Peter believed the OT to be the Word of God (2 Pet. 1:21). As did Hebrews (1:1). So did James (2:8, 23; 4:5). Blue Letter Bible . . .

III. “HOW DID THE NT WRITERS VIEW OTHER NT WRITERS?”

There are 27 books in the NT by 7 eyewitness authors. All wrote over same period (AD 45-70) and all tell the same story of salvation in Christ. Paul’s quotes from Dr. Luke (Lk. 10:7) and calls it “the Scripture”. Peter referred to Paul’s writings as “Scripture” (2 Pet. 3:15-16) – and Paul wrote (inspired by H.S.) 13 of 27 NT books! Look at Paul’s testimony (Gal. 1:11-12, 16; Eph. 3:3; 1 Cor. 11:23; 15:3; 1 Thess. 4:15; 1 Tim. 4:1; Tit. 1:3). And the Apostle John’s testimony (John 2:23; 19:9, 25-26; 21:5; Rev. 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14; 19:9).

IV. “WHAT IS CHRIST’S VIEW OF THE SCRIPTURES?”

- A. *Review*, last lesson saw Bible claims to be divinely inspired (leads to infallibility and inerrancy), supremely authoritative, eternally indestructible, etc. *Ahead* will also see it is historically and scientifically accurate – thus having supremacy over the so-called wisdom of man. What the writers of Scripture asserted about the Bible; Jesus affirmed as well.
- B. Jesus’ Affirmations and Testimony in His Words
 - 1. Infallible (perfect, incapable of error) – John 10:35; 17:17
 - 2. Inerrant (without error – originals) – Matt. 22:29
 - 3. Authoritative (final word – TRUTH!) – “It is written” (23 times). “Scripture” 14 times, “Word of God,” “God said” – Used to defeat the devil (Matt. 4:1-11; Eph. 6:17b)
 - 4. Indestructible (eternal) – Matt. 5:18; 24:35
- C. Jesus Validated OT People and Events – Jesus quoted from the OT 180 times in 1800 verses of the 4 Gospels (23% of the 7959 total). Creation (Matt. 19:4-5), Gender & Marriage, Sodom and Gomorrah (Lk. 17:29), Jonah (Matt. 12:40), Daniel (Matt. 24:15), Noah and the flood (Lk. 17:27). OT complete prior to His birth (Matt. 23:35).
- D. His Mission? He came to fulfill Scripture (Matt. 5:17; Lk. 18:31; 24:44). (Prophecy - more later). He believed Scripture to be the very words of God. He believed in its power to defeat the devil (Matt. 4:1-11) and transform our lives (Jn. 6:66-68; 2 Tim. 3:17; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Pet. 2:2).

CONC: There’s no doubt that the biblical writers believed they were speaking and writing the words of God, who is truth and can only give truth. It can be trusted “in all matters of faith and practice.” Still more witnesses to the stand next.