

First Principles Of The Oracles Of God

Lesson 4

The Bible: God's Only Word

Introduction

The Bible is, and always will be, the most popular "best-seller" of all time. It is the most famous talked about book on the market, being translated into more languages than any other book. Given these facts, one would think the vast majority of its readers would have a deep, reverential respect for it. Yet, we know that not to be the case. In fact, no other book may be more disrespected than the Bible. People won't say as much with their words, but by the way they live their lives and worship according to their own choices, they show a lack of respect for "the world's most popular book."

The Bible is not just a book we display on coffee tables or bookshelves so others can see we own one. How one views the Bible determines what he is morally, socially...especially religiously. This view also will dictate where he will spend eternity. Man must realize *the only way to know what God wants us to do is for Him to tell us* (*I don't know of anyone claiming the ability to read God's mind*). Some claim God still speaks through visions and dreams. Others continue to claim that God speaks directly to their heart. The truth remains...God must tell us His will. The difference is in how He tells us.

The theme of this lesson is to show the Bible to be God's only word, and thus is authoritative. It has no equal. It has had no predecessor. It will have no successor. If we accept the idea the Bible stands alone as God's only word, and we "hide it in our hearts" (Psa. 119:11), then we have taken a huge step towards a proper understanding and application of the Bible.

The Source Of The Bible

Before any discussion can begin, all must agree that the Bible comes from God.

Man's quest => find God's book that will instruct him on proper behavior so that he can go to heaven

- Two ways to accomplish this:

- a) Read every book ever written; eliminate all frauds one by one
 - such a process is physically impossible
 - God has warned us against such thinking (Eccl. 12:11-12)

b) Find the one book that satisfies all demands for Divine authenticity; reject all others



The Bible claims to be that book

How do the passages below suggest such a claim?

Jer. 1:9 _____

1 Thess. 2:13 _____

2 Tim. 3:16-17 _____

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The Nature Of The Bible

Its Harmony & Unity

- Not 1 book, but 66 different books blended together
- Written by 40 different human penmen over a period of 1,500 years
- These penmen came from different time periods and cultures, socio-economic backgrounds, and they spoke different languages
- Yet, the Bible is **completely** harmonious

What could be the only explanation? (2 Pet. 1:19-21)

Its Fulfilled Prophecies

- Prophecies written in the Old Testament hundreds of years in advance of being fulfilled bears strong evidence that the Bible is God's **only** book
- Examples:
 - a) Release of Jews from captivity by Persian king Cyrus (**Isa. 44:28**)
Written by Isaiah 170 years before Cyrus was born => How?
 - b) Birth of the Messiah to a virgin in Bethlehem (**Isa. 7:14; Mic. 5:1-5**)
Written by these prophets 700 years before Christ's birth => How?

Its Scientific & Historic Accuracies

- Though not a science or history book, the Bible does contain scientific & historical information
- Such discoveries continue to validate or confirm the accuracy, and credibility, of the Bible
- Examples:
 - a) World-wide paradigm that the world was flat
Disproved by Magellan in 1519
What does **Isa. 40:22** & **Prov. 8:27** say about this? _____
 - b) The absence of stars or planets when gazing directly north into the universe
Billions of heavenly stars when looking south, east, or west
What does **Job 26:7** say about this? _____
 - c) The discovery of gravity by Sir Isaac Newton *ca.* 1664
What does **Job 26:7** say about this? _____
 - d) British Museum expedition in 1929 confirmed a world-wide flood
Where does the Bible record this? _____
 - e) Basic dimensions of ship building *[still used today]*
Where does the Bible record this? _____
 - f) Basic oceanographic lanes *[still traveled by ships today]*
What does **Psa. 8:8** say about this? _____

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The Inerrancy Of The Bible

Define "inerrancy." _____

This connects the very nature of God Himself with the nature of His word

- a) What do we know about God's character? (**Num. 23:19; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18**)
- b) What do we know about the source of Scripture? (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**)
- c) Therefore, what is the inescapable conclusion regarding the nature of God's word?

The Durability Of The Bible

One of the Bible's most salient features is its indestructibility. Quite probably no other book ever written has had to endure as many determined attacks to destroy it as has the Bible.

- the fact that the Scripture has survived this long testifies of its origin
 - the Old Testament is at least 3,500 years old
 - the New Testament is nearly 2,000 years old
- most books do not even survive 1 or 2 generations

Some previous attempts to destroy the Bible:

- King Jehoiakim of Judah (**Jer. 36:4-6, 20-24, 27-28**)
- Antiochus Epiphanes of the Seleucid dynasty (175 - 163 B.C.)
- Diocletian, Roman emperor (303 A.D.)
- Roman Catholic Pope Innocent III (1199 A.D.)
- Roman Catholic Pope Gregory IX (1234 A.D.)

Despite these and other attempts, what does **Mt. 24:35** and **1 Pet. 1:23-25** teach us?

Other Books Besides The Bible

Even though sufficient proof exists that the Bible is God's only book, other books have arisen and their claims need to be dispelled.

The Book of Mormon

- it contradicts the Bible
 - 3 days of darkness at the crucifixion (Helaman 14:20-27)
 - the Bible records only 3 hours of darkness (**Lk. 23:44**)
- it has numerous contradictions
 - Alma 46:13-16 => supposedly written about 70 B.C.
 - Mosiah 18:17 => supposedly written about 150 B.C.



references to Christians
and the church of Christ

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- it fails the test of fulfilled prophecy
 - Alma 7:10 => predicted that Christ would be born in Jerusalem
 - the Bible correctly prophesied Jesus' birth in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2; Lk. 2:4)
- it fails the test of scientific accuracy
 - 1 Nephi 18:12 => references the Nephites using a compass
 - they supposedly lived around 550 B.C.
 - the compass was not invented until around 1100 A.D.

The Koran

- it contradicts the Bible
 - claims one of Noah's sons died in the flood (11:42-43)
 - the Bible clearly teaches all 3 sons survived in the ark (Gen. 7:1-5)
 - claims Jesus was not crucified at all (4:157-159)
 - the Bible clearly teaches He was (Lk. 23:33)

Watchtower Publications

- they contradict the Bible
 - claim that the doctrine of a "Trinity" is false => there is only one God, the Father
[*"Should You Believe In The Trinity?" Watchtower Publication, pg. 31*]
 - the Bible clearly teaches the existence of 1 Godhead with 3 members being God (Gen. 1:1-2, 26; Jn. 1:1-4; 8:24, 58; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 1:20; Col. 2:9)
- they fail the test of fulfilled prophecy
 - claimed "the present war in Europe (World War 1) is the beginning of the Armageddon of the Scriptures." [Pastor Russell Sermons, 1914 pg. 676]

Conclusion

The Bible is what it claims to be...the only written book of God!! We don't need to look any further for another authoritative source.

- ◆ It contains all the truth that God wants us to have
- ◆ It needs no revision or updating; it is totally inerrant
- ◆ It is all sufficient; it lacks nothing man needs to serve God (2 Pet. 1:3)
- ◆ It is far superior to anything man can ever invent (Isa. 55:8-11)
 - "if it is new, it is not true"
 - "if it is true, it is not new"
 - if a man-made creed contains more than the Bible, it contains too much
 - if a man-made creed contains less than the Bible, it contains too little
 - if a man-made creed contains the same as the Bible, there is no need for it
- ◆ It will be the standard used for our judgment (Jn. 12:48; Rev. 20:11-15)
- ◆ We should revere it, study it, believe it, and at last obey it

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Questions

1. What does **Jude 3** teach us about the Bible being God's only word?
2. From the prophecies of Jeremiah, of what are we reminded about our need for the word of God? (**Jer. 10:23**) When faced with dilemmas, where should we turn? (**Jer. 6:16**)
3. How does the apostle Paul illustrate the importance of Christians recognizing what he preached as God's only word in **Gal. 1:6-9**? With what extreme does he illustrate his argument?
4. How does the "prophetic test" God gave to Israel in **Deut. 18:14-22** prove that God wanted His people to view His word to them as exclusive?
5. What failure of David's is chronicled in **2 Sam. 6:1-11**? What was the mistake he made? (**1 Chron. 15:1-15**) Where was this "due order" or "ordinance" of God? (**Ex. 25:10-15; Num. 4:5, 15**)
6. Using the passage from **2 Sam. 6**, what practical lessons can we learn from David's error?