

Question: What are some good reasons for believing the Bible is from God? (#4)

This is the fourth in a series of articles meant to give logical reasons for believing the Bible is THE one and only book of God. Thus far we have noted the Bible's honesty in its depiction of characters – its power of preservation – the internal claims of its writers to be inspired of God – its record of the miracles God performed to validate His book – its unity and consistency of content – and its historical and geographical accuracy. Today we present two more “good reasons” for believing the Bible is God's book.

7) Its Endorsement By Jesus Christ

Many people have spoken well of the Bible, but no endorsement of it is as important as the many endorsements made by Jesus. He recommended it to others by teaching from it and following its precepts in His life. He made it clear to all who would listen that the Old Testament was more than Israel's national heritage; it was and is the very word of God (Mt 4:1-11; 5:17-19).

He taught that the Old Testament was a book about Himself, and that it was designed to lead man to Him who is the source of eternal life. To His countrymen He said, “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” (Jn 5:39-40).

Jesus gave credibility to the miracles of the Old Testament by speaking of them as actual events in history. He approved of the creation account in Genesis, and of Adam and Eve as the first human couple (Gen 1-3; Mt 19:1-9). He mentioned the worldwide flood in Noah's day (Gen 6-9; Mt 24:37-39). He spoke of Jonah and the great fish just as if He were speaking about an incident in His own life (Jonah; Mt 12:39-42). He referred to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19; Mt 10:14-15). He even confirmed the miracles of God's Old Testament prophets. For example, he described Elijah causing the widow's meal not to deplete (1Kgs 17; Lk 4:25-26), and Elisha healing Naaman the Syrian leper (1Kgs 5; Lk 4:27).

The Holy Spirit guided the writers of the New Testament in their work, and Jesus had an important role in that too. Before ascending back to His Father, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to empower them to know “all truth” by helping them to remember “all things” that He had said to them (Jn 16:7, 13; 14:26).

There are many other examples of Jesus' testimony supporting the truth of the Bible, but these will suffice to make the point. The Bible is the true and complete word of God, and if a person does not believe part of it, he cannot believe any of it. Jesus taught that the Old Testament was a product of God's will, therefore we either accept the Bible as the authentic word of God or we reject Jesus Christ Himself. For if He was mistaken about the Bible, then He could not have been "God with us" (Mt 1:21-23), and thus mankind has no Savior!

8) Its Prophetic Accuracy

Since the days of Moses, the Bible has predicted events that no one wanted to believe. For example, before Israel went into the Promised Land, Moses predicted that the nation would become unfaithful to God. Moses then warned that God would take away her land holdings and scatter her people (Deut 28-31). Central to Old Testament prophecy was the promise of a Messiah (one chosen to rule) who would unite and save God's people, including some in every nation (Dan 2, 7; Isa 2:2-4; Joel 2). The New Testament writers described the fulfillment of

these prophecies as unfolding in their day (Ac 2, 10; Ep 2; Co 1:13). Jesus, indeed, is that Messiah. He initiated a new covenant between God and His people that united them in one body, under one head, and empowered them to be saved from their sins with a view of living eternally in heaven with God (Jer 31:31-34; He 8:7-12). If the word spoken through Moses was “steadfast,” so also is the word of Christ in the New Testament (He 2:1-4). The Bible is truly THE word of Almighty God.

Next week I will complete this series, and I thank you for reading today. Please send your questions and comments to the address above. We also have a mail-in Bible correspondence course if you are interested. Study your Bible and search the Truth!