

Can We Trust The Bible?

Part 2

Canonicity of the New Testament

This section is discussing why our Bible contains the 27 NT books that it does and not others. How did it get decided that only these 27 books are "The Word of God" and not others?

1. How many other books have been proposed by some as Scripture? (pg. 10)

2. What were the criteria for accepting a book as canonical (or as scripture)? (pg. 10)

3. What four things made a writing by an apostle considered as Scripture? (pg. 10)

Let's look at what the Bible says about some of these writings.

4. Look up Acts 2:42. Who's teaching did the early church devote themselves to?

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13. What is Paul thanking God for as he writes to the Thessalonians?

6. Read 2 Peter 3:15-16. According to Peter, who gave Paul his wisdom?

In verse 16, what does Peter compare Paul's writings to?

7. The Pseudepigrapha (suda – pig – rafa) is a collection of writings that were never considered scripture. Name 2 reasons why they were rejected as Scripture. (pg. 11)

8. The New Testament Apocrypha is a collection of books written after Jesus's time. Name 2 reasons why they were rejected as Scripture. (pg. 10-11)

Is the Bible *actually* God's very words?

Let's start by looking at what the Bible says about itself.

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:16. What does this say about the Bible (Scripture)?

2. Read 2 Peter 1:20-21. What does this say about Scripture?

Now let's look at some other reasons the Bible is considered the very words of God.

*The first reason the Bible is the Word of God is its **UNITY**. There are no contradicting ideas or statements throughout the whole Bible. It is as if one person wrote it all because it is so consistent in what it says.*

3. Fill in these sentences: (pg. 13-14)

The Bible contains _____ books that were written over a _____ span, over a period of _____ generations, by approximately _____ from every walk of life. Some of these authors include a man who was a _____, another who was a _____, and another who was a _____. It was written in different places such as _____, _____, and _____. It was written at _____ (times of war and peace), during different _____ (in joy and sorrow), on _____ continents, and in _____ languages. And the subject matter of the Bible includes many _____ topics such as _____, _____, and _____.

Yet there is still harmony and continuity throughout the entire book!!

*The second reason the Bible is the Word of God is the **SCIENTIFIC CLAIMS IT MAKES YEARS BEFORE THEY WERE DISCOVERED**. There is no way the writers of the Bible could have known what they did without God telling them. The rest of the world didn't discover these things until much later.*

4. What does Isaiah 40:22 tell us about the shape of the earth (written at 700 BC)?

5. What does Job 26:7 tell us about the earth (written around 2000 BC)?

6. What does Psalm 8:8 tell us about the seas? What is in the seas for the fish to swim in (written between 1400 BC and 586 BC)?

7. What does Job 38:16 tell us is in the sea (written around 2000 BC)?

*The third reason the Bible is the Word of God is the **FULFILLED PROPHECIES** in the Bible. The Bible has a 100% accuracy rate when it comes to predictions. Everything that has been predicted so far has come true as the Bible has said it would. There are still some prophecies that have yet to take place.*

8. How many prophecies were made about Jesus in the Old Testament? (pg. 15)

9. How likely is it that 1 man would be able to fulfill all of those prophecies? Write out the probability in number form. (pg. 15)

10. Name 2 other things that were predicted in the Bible and came true. (pg. 15)

Conclusion:

1. We can trust that the 27 books contained in the New Testament are the right books to be included because they were written by the apostles or close associates of the apostles and showed evidence that they were inspired by God
2. We can trust the Bible is actually the Word of God because of its unity, its foreknowledge of scientific facts, its fulfilled prophecies, and its own claims to be the Word of God.