

Can We Trust The Bible?

Part 2

*Read statements of the
DaVinci Code

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)

OVER 300 books

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

1. written by an apostle

2. written by a close associate of an apostle

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

1. Read publically

2. circulated widely

3. copies of it were collected

4. often quoted in other writings

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?

The apostles' teachings

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

that they accepted the word of God from the apostles
as the word of God, not as the word of man

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

God did.

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

other scriptures

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)

1. produced mainly by heretical groups

2. contains exaggerated and mythical religious folklore

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)

1. NEVER more than local or temporary recognition
2. NO major church council or N.T. collection considered them as inspired books.

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)?

All Scripture is God-breathed; useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, training in righteousness

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

NO Scripture came by the prophet's own interpretation.

Doesn't originate in the will of man, but ^{these} men spoke from God by the Holy Spirit.

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 46 books that were written over a 1600 year span, over a period of 40 generations, by approximately 40 authors from every walk of life. Some of these authors include a man who was a fisherman, another who was a prime minister, and another who was a tax collector. It was written in different places such as in the wilderness, in a palace, and the isle of Patmos. It was written at times (times of war and peace), during different moods (in joy and sorrow), on 3 continents, and in 3 languages. And the subject matter of the Bible includes many controversial topics such as the origin of man and the universe, the nature of God, and the nature of sin and man's redemption.

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

*What do your peers and friends think of God?

