



The Bible

Can We Trust It?



Bible Study Pathways

Lesson 1

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A Story to Ponder...

Once upon a time a man who didn't love and believe the Word of God was talking with a Christian doctor who did love and believe it. "I'm surprised that you put any faith in the Bible," said the unbeliever. "An educated man like you; why you can't even tell for sure who wrote many of the books in it! And how could anyone with any brains at all believe all those miracles?"

"Wouldn't you put faith in anything if you didn't know who wrote it?" asked the doctor.

"Certainly not, my good man!" replied the unbeliever.

"Do you know who wrote the multiplication table?" asked the doctor.

"Well—er—no!"

"Yet you believe it and use it all the time, don't you?"

"Well—er—yes" replied the unbeliever, beginning to feel uncomfortable. Then a gleam of hope came to him. "Well, you see, doctor, the multiplication table works so well that no one needs to know who wrote it."

Then the doctor replied, "The same is true of the Bible. It works well too! Did you ever hear a man say, 'I was a thief, a murderer, a drunkard, disgrace to my family; then I began to study mathematics, geology, or astronomy, and it made a new man out of me'?"

"Well—er—no!" replied the unbeliever.

"Well, answered the doctor, "I can show you not one or two or hundreds, but thousands of men and women who have become new creatures because they have loved and believed the Word of God."

This fact is exactly what the Bible teaches about itself.



2 Timothy 3:15-17 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. [1 Thess. 2:13, Psalm 119:9]



The Bible says that it is profitable for _____, _____, _____, and _____.



The Bible is really a library of books...66 in all. These 66 books were written over a period of 1600 years. They were written by 40 different men -- from 13 different countries -- on 3 different continents...



2 Peter 1:19-21 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: **Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**



2 Pet. 1:19 declares the Bible to be the _____ of _____.



Daniel 2 was literally fulfilled just as the scriptures prophesied. As Daniel prophesied, Babylon was overcome by Cyrus (Medo-Persia), Medo-Persia was overtaken by Greece-the belly and thighs of brass in 331 B.C [Compare Daniel 8:20,21]. The legs of iron were fulfilled as according to the historian Gibbon "nations or their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome." {More info in insert}




Psalm 33:11 says, **The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.**



Isaiah 40:8 also declares God's word will last how long? _____



Voltaire in his day said, "in 100 years the Bible will be a forgotten book, only to be found in museums." 100 years later, Voltaire was dead, and his house was purchased by the Geneva Bible Society for the printing and distribution of Bibles!

The Bible declares itself to be the source of all light.  **Psalm 119:130** The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.



Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no _____ in them. Jeremiah 8:9



Science has proven the Bible to be true and disproved many myths.

Scientific Fact/Principle	Bible reference	Date of discovery by man
Blood is necessary for life	Leviticus 17:11	19th Century
The Earth is round	Isaiah 40:22	15th Century
Water cycle	Ecclesiastes 1:7	17th Century
Quarantine for disease control	Leviticus 13	17th Century



Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.



The Bible is like what instrument of warfare? Ephesians 6:17 _____

Tips for Bible Study

- The Bible should be the rule of faith. Thus, we must study it for ourselves.



Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- Dig Deep, Put Forth Quality Time and Effort



Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: Matthew 7:7

Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:3-5

The Bible is its own expositor. One passage will prove to be a key that will unlock other passages, and in this way light will be shed upon the hidden meaning of the word. By comparing different texts treating on the same subject, viewing their bearing on every side, the true meaning of the Scriptures will be made evident.



Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:12-14

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. Isaiah 28:9-11

CONCLUSION

History and science confirm the accuracy of the Bible. It is God's inspired Word, and is the full, sufficient and basic rule of faith and practice. Each person must study it for themselves, realizing that it is to be its own expositor.