

Is the Bible Believable?

A Fair, Empirical Look at the Christian Holy Book

Who Am I?

- In college, I had to wrestle with the legitimacy of the Bible.
- I have come to believe the Bible is 100% reliable and true.
- I am a Christian.
- I am a pastor-in-training.

Who Am I?

- I am not here to shove my religion down your throat.
- I will be understanding of your views.
- I am open to critique, but...
 - I ask that if I can't give you a good answer today, you will give me a day to look it up and a way to contact you so I can get back to you. I will reciprocate.
- I would be happy to email this PowerPoint to anyone who might want it.
 - My contact information is on the handout you received.

Any Questions or
Comments?

Let's begin...

Claims Against the Bible

- It has changed over the years/it's so old it can't be trusted.
- It does not align with the archaeological/historical record.
- It was written too long after the events took place to be accurate.
- It contradicts itself in many places.
- It was written by people who made up a religion in order to gain power.

What if these claims
against the Bible...

Could be proven false by
claims for the Bible?

Please give me an honest
chance...

As we go through these
claims one-by-one.

CLAIM AGAINST

The Bible has...

changed over the years. It's so old it can't be trusted.

Is the Bible Reliable?

“HISTORIANS TELL US THAT THE BIBLE IS ACTUALLY ONE OF THE MOST, IF NOT THE MOST, RELIABLE AND CREDIBLE DOCUMENTS FROM ANTIQUITY.”

-Mark Clark, Author

Is the Bible Reliable?

- Scholars treat many ancient texts as reliable, these receive very little criticism regarding their accuracy.

Work	Date Written	Time Gap	No. of Copies
Thucydides	~400 BC	1,300 years	8
Poetics-Aristotle	335 BC	1,400 years	5
Gallic Wars-Caesar	58-49 BC	1,000 years	10
Annals of Rome -Tacitus	100 AD	1,000 years	20
Sophocles	496-406 BC	1,400 years	193
Illiad-Homer	900 BC	500 years	643

Is the Bible Reliable?

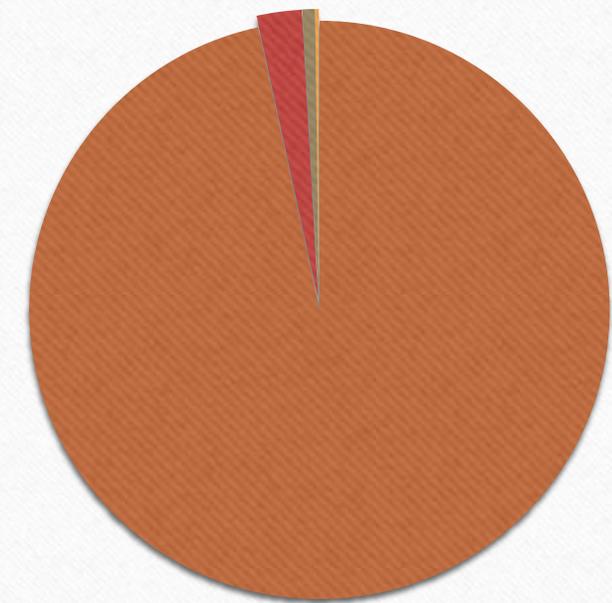
- When compared to the New Testament, there is no comparison...

Work	Date Written	Time Gap	No. of Copies
New Testament	50-95 AD	50-100 years	25,000+

- We have two texts that give us the complete New Testament from the 4th Century (Sinaiticus & Vaticanus)
 - These two texts form the backbone of our modern New Testaments.
 - But they are checked by thousands of other manuscripts, many of which are very early, that come from several ancient languages (Greek, Coptic, Latin, etc.)

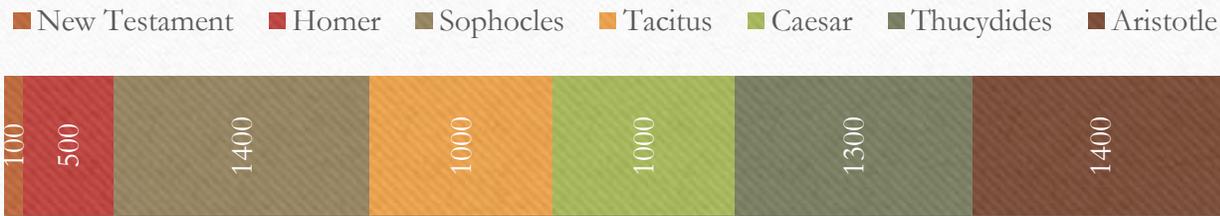
Is the Bible Reliable?

Number of Manuscripts



■ New Testament ■ Homer ■ Sophocles ■ Others

Time Gap



■ New Testament ■ Homer ■ Sophocles ■ Tacitus ■ Caesar ■ Thucydides ■ Aristotle

Is the Bible Reliable?

- For a long time, scholars were less sure about the Old Testament.
 - Bible critics long pointed out that the earliest manuscripts of the Old Testament were from the Masoretic Text, which is dated in the 10th cent. AD.
- Then the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947.
 - They are dated to the 1st Century BC.
 - They represent at least a portion of every Old Testament book except Esther.
 - They are remarkably similar to the Masoretic Text.

Is the Bible Reliable?

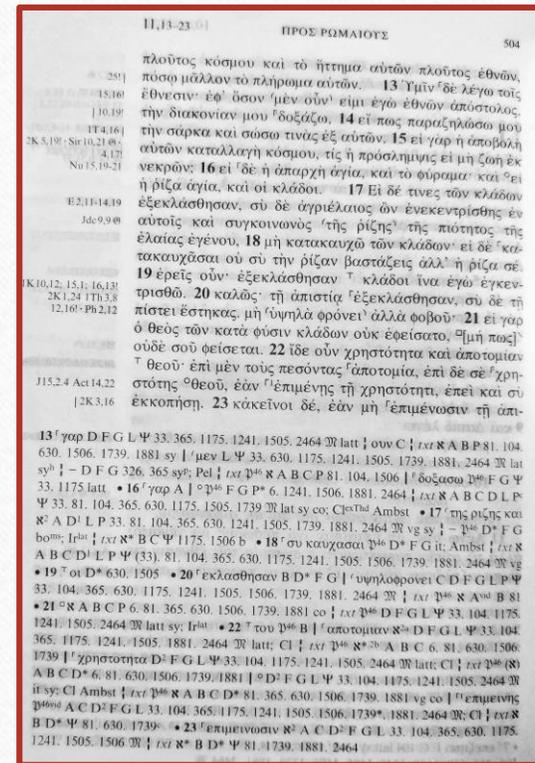
- How similar?
 - Isaiah was one of the best preserved scrolls, and it was letter for letter identical to the Masoretic Text more than 95% of the time.
 - That 5% variation was most often from obvious ‘slips of the pen’ and misspellings.
 - There were no major doctrinal differences.
- This pattern held true for the rest of the Old Testament that could be compared.

“UPON COMPARISON WITH THE BIBLICAL MANUSCRIPTS OF THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS, THE EXACTNESS WAS AMAZING.”

-Andrew Steinmann, Professor of OT Theology & Author

Is the Bible Reliable?

- In creating our modern Bibles, scholars carefully examine all of the known manuscripts and determine the most attested reading.
 - They then list all the differentiations underneath.
 - Translators use these compilations of the ancient text to create their work.
 - All in all, the process is very reliable. Due to the number and close time gap of Biblical manuscripts – reconstructions of the Bible are by far the most accurate of any ancient text.



Is the Bible Reliable?

“IN NO OTHER CASE IS THE INTERVAL OF TIME BETWEEN THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOOK AND THE DATE OF THE EARLIEST EXTANT MANUSCRIPTS SO SHORT AS THAT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.”

-Sir Frederic G. Kenyon, Former Director of the British Museum

Is the Bible Reliable?

“IF ONE WILL JUDGE THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCUMENTS WITH THE SAME STANDARDS OR TESTS APPLIED TO ANY ONE OF THE GREEK CLASSICS, THE EVIDENCE OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORS THE NEW TESTAMENT. IF A PERSON CONTENDS THAT WE HAVE A RELIABLE TEXT OF THE CLASSICS, THEN HE WOULD BE FORCED TO ADMIT WE HAVE A RELIABLE TEXT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.”

-Josh McDowell, Author

Is the Bible Reliable?

“THE WEALTH OF MANUSCRIPTS, AND ABOVE ALL THE NARROW INTERVAL OF TIME BETWEEN THE WRITING AND THE EARLIEST EXTANT COPIES, MAKE IT BY FAR THE BEST ATTESTED TEXT OF ANY ANCIENT WRITING IN THE WORLD”.

-John A.T. Robinson, Bishop of Woolwich

CLAIM FOR

The Bible has not...

changed over the years. Though it's old, it can be trusted.

CLAIM AGAINST

The Bible does not...

align with the archaeological or
historical record.

Does the Bible Align with Archaeology?

“LUKE IS A HISTORIAN OF THE FIRST RANK; NOT MERELY ARE HIS STATEMENTS OF FACT TRUSTWORTHY...THIS AUTHOR SHOULD BE PLACED ALONG WITH THE GREATEST OF HISTORIANS.”

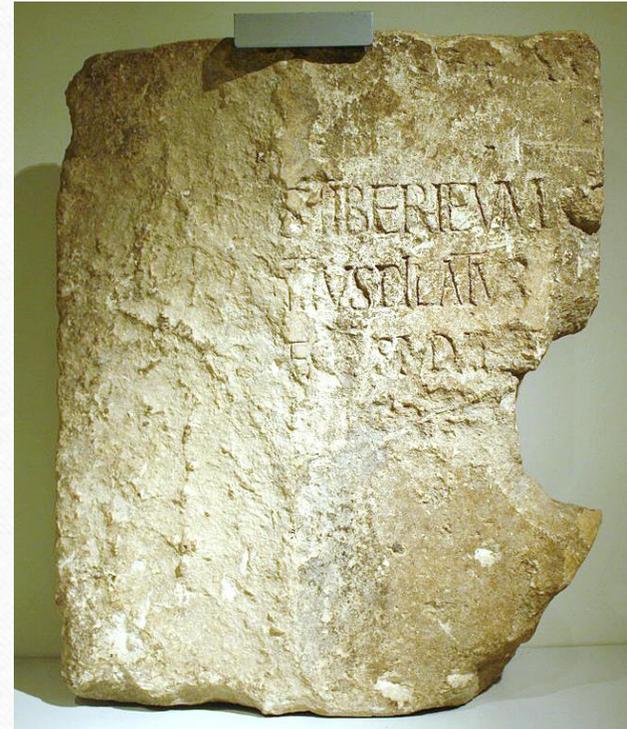
-Sir William Mitchell Ramsay, Archaeologist

Does the Bible Align with Archaeology?

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- There is a lot of historical and geographical data in the Bible...
 - While not all of it can be backed up by history or archaeology, none of it has been contradicted by history or archaeology.
 - For example: For years, professors taught that the Bible could not be true because, though there was digging in the area, no pool of Bethesda nor its “five roofed colonnades” were found (John 5:1-2).
 - Yet, in the 1950s, archaeologists dug a little deeper and the pool as well as the colonnades were both found.
 - Don't rule out the Bible because it hasn't all been proven. Believe it because none of it has been disproven.

Does the Bible Align with Archaeology?

- Example of Biblical discoveries:
 - The Pilate Stone – A 1st Cent. Roman inscription mentioning Pontius Pilate.



Does the Bible Align with Archaeology?

- Example of Biblical discoveries:
 - Caiaphas' Ossuary – The burial box of the high priest Caiaphas, who led the push to crucify Jesus.



Does the Bible Align with Archaeology?

- Example of Biblical discoveries:
 - Stone Affirming King David – A rock bearing the inscription “House of David.”



Does the Bible Align with History?

- Other evidences...
 - There are numerous flood accounts from ancient civilizations, including the one found in the Epic of Gilgamesh.
 - Numerous Biblical cities have been uncovered right where they should be.
 - The historical records we have from Assyria, Babylon, and Persia align with the Biblical records of these civilizations.
 - Papyrus documents found in Egypt affirm that Luke was correct in saying that there was a census at the time of Jesus' birth.
 - And many more!

Does the Bible Align with History?

- Jesus is mentioned and discussed in 10 non-Christian sources within 150 years of his death. These all align with the record in the Bible.
 - *“About this time there lived **Jesus**, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who **performed surprising deeds** and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. **He was the Messiah**. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, **Pilate** had condemned him **to a cross**, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day **restored to life**, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.”*

-Josephus, 93 AD

Does the Bible Align with History?

- Jesus is mentioned and discussed in 10 non-Christian sources within 150 years of his death that align with the record in the Bible.
 - *“What advantage did the Athenians gain from murdering Socrates? Famine and plague came upon them as a punishment for their crime. What advantage did the men of Samos gain from burning Pythagoras? In a moment their land was covered with sand. **What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their wise king? It was just after that their kingdom was abolished.** God justly avenged these three wise men: the Athenians died of hunger; the Samians were overwhelmed by the sea and the Jews, desolate and driven from their own kingdom, live in complete dispersion. But Socrates is not dead, because of Plato; neither is Pythagoras, because of the statue of Juno; nor is the wise king, because of the "new law" he laid down.”*

-Mara bar Serapion, 73 AD

Does the Bible Align with History?

- Jesus is mentioned and discussed in 10 non-Christian sources within 150 years of his death that align with the record in the Bible.
 - *“Christus, from whom the name had its origin, **suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius** at the hands of one of our procurators, **Pontius Pilatus.**”*
-Tacitus, 116 AD
- Other writings include *The Talmud* and those by: Suetonius, Pliny the Younger, Philo, and others.
- In addition to these 10 non-Christian sources, there are many Ancient Christian sources not found in the Bible that mentioned Jesus as well.

Does the Bible Align with Archaeology?

“THOUSANDS OF FACTS IN THE BIBLE ARE NOT CAPABLE OF VERIFICATION BECAUSE THE EVIDENCE HAS LONG SINCE BEEN LOST. HOWEVER, IT IS REMARKABLE THAT WHERE CONFIRMATION IS POSSIBLE AND HAS COME TO LIGHT, THE BIBLE SURVIVES CAREFUL INVESTIGATION IN WAYS THAT ARE UNIQUE IN ALL LITERATURE. ITS SUPERIORITY TO ATTACK, ITS CAPACITY TO WITHSTAND CRITICISM, AND ITS AMAZING FACILITY TO BE PROVED RIGHT ARE ALL STAGGERING BY ANY STANDARDS OF SCHOLARSHIP.”

-Clifford Wilson, Former Director of the Australian Institute of Archaeology

Does the Bible Align with Archaeology?

“IT MAY BE STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT NO
ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY HAS EVER CONTRADICTED A
BIBLICAL REFERENCE.”

-Nelson Glueck, Renowned Israeli Archaeologist

Since the Bible aligns with both
history and archaeology...

...perhaps we should begin to wonder if the
rest of its message might be true as well.

CLAIM FOR

The Bible does...

align with the archaeological and
historical record.

CLAIM AGAINST

The Bible was...

written too long after the events
took place to be accurate.

Was the Bible Written Too Late?

“IF THE GOSPELS WERE WRITTEN ONLY THIRTY TO FIFTY YEARS AFTER THE LIFE OF JESUS, THEN WE HAVE GOOD REASON TO TRUST THEM. IF YOU’RE GOING TO MAKE UP STORIES ABOUT MIRACLES AND EVENTS THAT YOU ARE CLAIMING REALLY HAPPENED, YOU HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL ALL THE EYEWITNESSES ARE DEAD AND GONE.”

-Mark Clark, Author

Was the Bible Written Too Late?

- The New Testament was actually written very soon after the events it describes.
 - Paul's earliest letters were written 15-20 years after Jesus' crucifixion.
 - Even liberal theologians agree that the Gospels were written 30-50 years after the events they describe.
- It was written by eye witnesses of these events...
 - Matthew, John, Peter, James, and Jude.
- Or by those who recorded the events from eye witnesses...
 - Mark, Luke, and Paul.

Was the Bible Written Too Late?

¹ “INASMUCH AS MANY HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO **COMPILE A NARRATIVE** OF THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AMONG US, ² JUST AS THOSE WHO FROM THE BEGINNING WERE **EYEWITNESSES** AND MINISTERS OF THE WORD HAVE DELIVERED THEM TO US, ³ IT SEEMED GOOD TO ME ALSO, **HAVING FOLLOWED ALL THINGS CLOSELY** FOR SOME TIME PAST, TO WRITE AN ORDERLY ACCOUNT FOR YOU, MOST EXCELLENT THEOPHILUS, ⁴ **THAT YOU MAY HAVE CERTAINTY** CONCERNING THE THINGS YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT..”

-Luke 1:1-4

Was the Bible Written Too Late?

- Why is 15-50 years not too long after the events took place?
 - Most people who witnessed the events would have still been alive.
 - If they were making up fictitious stories, especially ones as miraculous and dramatic as they claim, they would have chosen an earlier date for Jesus.
 - People could have refuted their claims.
 - People wouldn't have followed, yet thousands did.
 - We know this from Tacitus, Pliny the Younger, Josephus, and other ancient writers.
- Before first hand witnesses would have died, Christianity was a major force in Judea and across the Roman world. These people saw the events and believed.

Was the Bible Written Too Late?

- In fact, the Biblical writers encourage their readers to ask the eye witnesses.
 - Paul writes: “⁴ *that (Jesus) was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,* ⁵ *and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.* ⁶ *Then he **appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.***”
 - Mark writes: “²¹ *And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, **the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.***”
- Quite often, the New Testament writers use the names of real people. They are saying, “Go ask them if these events really happened to them.”

Was the Bible Written Too Late?

“IT CAN’T HAVE BEEN SO EASY AS SOME WRITERS SEEM TO THINK TO INVENT WORDS AND DEEDS OF JESUS IN THOSE EARLY YEARS, WHEN SO MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES WERE ABOUT, WHO COULD REMEMBER WHAT HAD AND HAD NOT HAPPENED.”

-F.F. Bruce, Biblical Scholar & Author

CLAIM FOR

The Bible was...

written shortly after the events took place so it is very accurate.

CLAIM AGAINST

The Bible...

contradicts itself in many places.

Does the Bible Contradict Itself?

“IT HAS BEEN MY EXPERIENCE THAT, AFTER A LITTLE RESEARCH, ALL THE ALLEGED CONTRADICTIONS AND INACCURACIES ARE EXPLAINABLE.”

-Paul F. Taylor, Author

Does the Bible Contradict Itself?

- There are many books and articles written to show how the Bible contradicts itself...
- Yet, there are just as many books and articles written to show just the opposite...
 - That the supposed contradictions aren't contradictions at all.
- The point is this – it's possible to find 'contradictions' in any work of literature if that's your purpose...
 - But when one acts in good faith without malicious intent and takes into consideration the context as well as the meaning, flow, and purpose of the book as a whole, these 'contradictions' disappear.

Does the Bible Contradict Itself?

- For example:
 - It is often pointed out that there is a difference in the number of angels at the resurrection in Matthew and John.
 - Matt. 28:5 – “*But **the** angel said to the women...*”
 - John 20:12 – “*And she saw **two** angels in white...*”
 - Where there is two, there is always one. Matthew is emphasizing the one angel that spoke, while John is emphasizing that two angels were there.

Does the Bible Contradict Itself?

- For example:
 - It is often pointed out that there is a difference in how Judas died in Matthew and Acts.
 - Matt. 27:5 – “...*He departed, and he went and **hanged** himself.*”
 - Acts. 1:18 – “...*and **falling headlong** he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.*”
 - These are complimentary accounts. Judas hanged himself, and eventually the rope broke or someone cut him down and “*falling headlong*” his decaying flesh “*burst open*” and “*all his bowels gushed out.*”

Does the Bible Contradict Itself?

- When a supposed contradiction is found, consider...
 - A parable/sermon was told more than once, emphasizing different aspects.
 - People noticed different things and wrote their different perspectives on the same event.
 - The Bible is a story that progresses, some things in the OT are overturned in the NT.
 - Your attitude toward the text – are you not allowing yourself to see a solution because you want there to be a contradiction?
- I challenge you to just do a quick Google search on the ‘contradiction’ you may find in order to read an explanation that could eliminate that ‘contradiction.’

Does the Bible Contradict Itself?

- Not only do I believe that the Bible does not contradict itself, but under its circumstances, this fact becomes even more incredible...
 - The OT was written in Hebrew and the NT in Greek.
 - The Bible was written by authors of different cultures.
 - Most of its writers were Jewish, but Moses was raised by Egyptians, Luke was a Gentile, etc.
 - It was written over a period of 1,500 years!
 - It was written by at least 37 different authors.
 - It is made up of several distinctive forms of literature.
 - History, Poetry, Epistolary, Apocryphal, and Proverbial to name a few.

Does the Bible Contradict Itself?

“THE SUPPOSED BIBLE ERRORS ARE WELL KNOWN TO BIBLE SCHOLARS AND HAVE ALL BEEN ADDRESSED AND FOUND NOT TO BE ERRORS AFTER ALL. IN EVERY CASE, THERE IS A LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR THE SUPPOSED ERROR..”

-Paul F. Taylor, Author

Does the Bible Contradict Itself?

While, we cannot here look at every alleged Bible contradiction, I challenge you to at least consider that for every apparent inconsistency, there is a logical explanation. I would encourage you to look into the supposed incongruencies and consider whether or not it is worth discrediting all of Christianity based on a contradiction that may or may not be a contradiction at all.

CLAIM FOR

The Bible does not...

contradict itself even though it was
written by many authors over 1,500
years.

CLAIM AGAINST

The Bible was...

written by people who made up a religion in order to gain power.

Was the Bible Written to Gain Power?

- If the writers of the Bible indeed wanted to gain power, they had a poor understanding of how to do so.
 - The Bible is full of material that is counter-productive to that agenda.
- Jesus, whom the writers claim to be God, often appears as weak in the Gospels.
- The Apostles who wrote the books, are made to look badly.
- The same is true of the writers of many Old Testament books.

Was the Bible Written to Gain Power?

- The Gospels are full of content that make Jesus look weak...
 - Mark 6:5 – “*And **he could do no mighty work** there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.*”
 - Luke 22:44 – “*And being **in agony** he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*”
 - Matt. 27:29-30 – “*And twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, **they mocked him**, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And **they spit on him** and took the reed and **struck him** on the head.”*
 - John 19:30 – “*(Jesus) said, “It is finished,” and **he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.**”*

Was the Bible Written to Gain Power?

- The Apostles writings are full of material that make them look weak:
 - Matthew 9:9 – “*As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew **sitting at the tax booth.***”
 - Mark 8:33 – “*But turning and seeing his disciples, **he rebuked Peter** and said, “**Get behind me, Satan!** For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”*
 - Mark 14:72 – “*And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will **deny me three times.**” **And he broke down and wept.***”
 - 1 Corinthians 15:8-9 – “*Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For **I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.***”

Was the Bible Written to Gain Power?

“THESE PILLARS OF THE EARLY CHURCH DISOBEY, ASK THE WRONG QUESTIONS, TEACH THE WRONG THINGS, LACK FAITH, AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN SHOW THEMSELVES NOT TO BE MEN OF VALOR. WHY? BECAUSE THE GOSPEL WRITERS ARE SAYING, “THIS IS JUST WHAT HAPPENED,” AND INSTEAD OF CLEANING UP THE ACCOUNTS, THEY LEFT THEM AS THEY WERE.”

-Mark Clark, Author

Was the Bible Written to Gain Power?

- The Old Testament writers also often look weak in their writings:
 - Numbers 20:12 – “*And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because **you did not believe in me**, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.”*”
 - Psalm 51:3– “*For I know **my transgressions**, and **my sin** is ever before me.”*”
 - Psalm 142:6 – “*Attend to my cry, for **I am brought very low!** Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are **too strong** for me!”*”
 - Jonah 1:3 – “*But Jonah rose **to flee** to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.”*”

Was the Bible Written to Gain Power?

- Not only did the Bible writers not write in such a way that it gained them power, but quite the opposite is true!
 - Many Old Testament writers penned words that those around them hated, words that got them severely punished!
 - The Bible often speaks of the persecution that its followers will undergo.
 - Many New Testament writers penned words that got them persecuted, beaten, and killed.

Was the Bible Written to Gain Power?

- The Old Testament writers wrote things that got them persecuted:
 - Jeremiah 26:4-6 – “*Thus says the Lord: If you will not listen to me...then I will make this house like Shiloh, and **I will make this city a curse** for all the nations of the earth.*”
 - The result: “*All the people laid hold of him saying, ‘**You shall die!**’*” (Jeremiah 26:8)
 - Hosea 4:1 – “*Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for the **Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants** of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land.*”
 - Isaiah 3:1 – “*For behold, the Lord God of hosts is **taking away** from Jerusalem and from Judah support and supply, all support of bread, and all support of water.*”
 - These are a few of numerous examples.

Was the Bible Written to Gain Power?

- Instead of promising good things to its followers, the Bible promises suffering:
 - Matthew 24:9 – “*Then they will **deliver you up** to tribulation and **put you to death**, and you **will be hated** by all nations for my name's sake.*”
 - Acts 7:57– “*But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then **they cast him out of the city and stoned him.***”
 - Acts 14:19 – “***They stoned Paul** and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.*”
 - 2 Tim 3:12 – “*Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus **will be persecuted.***”
 - This is terrible advertising for a religion!

Was the Bible Written to Gain Power?

However, I think the best evidence that the Bible is true is that those who wrote it and who became Christians from these eye witnesses were so willing to suffer and die for their faith...

Was the Bible Written to Gain Power?

- Church tradition holds that 11 of the 12 disciples were martyred for their faith, and the other, John, was exiled. Below we find evidence that Peter and Paul were martyred, written by Clement of Rome in 96 AD:
 - *“Peter, who by reason of wicked jealousy, not only once or twice but **frequently endured suffering** and thus, bearing his witness, went to the glorious place which he merited...To these men (Peter and Paul) who lived such holy lives there was joined a great multitude of the elect who by reason of rivalry were **victims of many outrages and tortures** and who became outstanding examples among us.”*
- Other early church fathers also affirm their martyrdom.

Was the Bible Written to Gain Power?

- Josephus writes the following about the martyrdom of Jesus' brother James, the author of the Biblical book of the same name:
 - *“so he assembled the Sanhedrin of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others; and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, **he delivered them to be stoned.**”*
- In Acts 12:1-2, we read that James, the brother of John, an Apostle was also martyred:
 - *“About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. **He killed James** the brother of John with the sword.”*

Was the Bible Written to Gain Power?

- Tacitus and Suetonius - ancient, objective, non-Christian authors - write of these persecutions of Christians by Nero:
 - *“Nero fastened the guilt and **inflicted the most exquisite tortures** on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace... Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an **immense multitude was convicted**, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. **Mockery of every sort** was added to their **deaths**. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were **torn by dogs** and **perished**, or were **nailed to crosses**, or were **doomed to the flames** and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired.”*
 - *“**Punishment was inflicted** on the Christians.”*

Was the Bible Written to Gain Power?

“I PREFER TO BELIEVE THOSE WRITERS WHO GET THEIR
THROATS CUT FOR WHAT THEY WRITE.”

-Blaise Pascal, Philosopher & Mathematician

Was the Bible Written to Gain Power?

You don't die for something you made up. Those who wrote the Bible knew that what they wrote was true. They knew that God had come down to earth as a man. They knew what he had taught and preached among them. They knew that he was crucified for the forgiveness of the sins of the world. And they knew that he rose from dead. They were so sure of it, that they wrote it down and they died for their belief. They didn't recant, but held firm until the end. And it wasn't one or two who might have been crazy. It was hundreds, if not thousands, of these early Christians, eye witnesses, who knew that it was so true that they would rather be tortured and killed instead of renounce their faith.

CLAIM FOR

The Bible was...

written by people who were so sure
it was true that they died for their
writing.

The Bible was Approved By Jesus

- The historical figure of Jesus, approved and upheld the Bible.
 - He had the same OT we do & claimed it was true by quoting it constantly and referring to it as Scripture.
 - *“Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.”* –Luke 24:44-45
 - He promises to give the Holy Spirit to his Apostles to help them write the NT.
 - *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”* –John 14:26

Could the Bible Be True?

“I AM BUSILY ENGAGED IN THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE. I BELIEVE IT IS GOD’S WORD BECAUSE IT FINDS ME WHERE I AM.”

-Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the U.S.

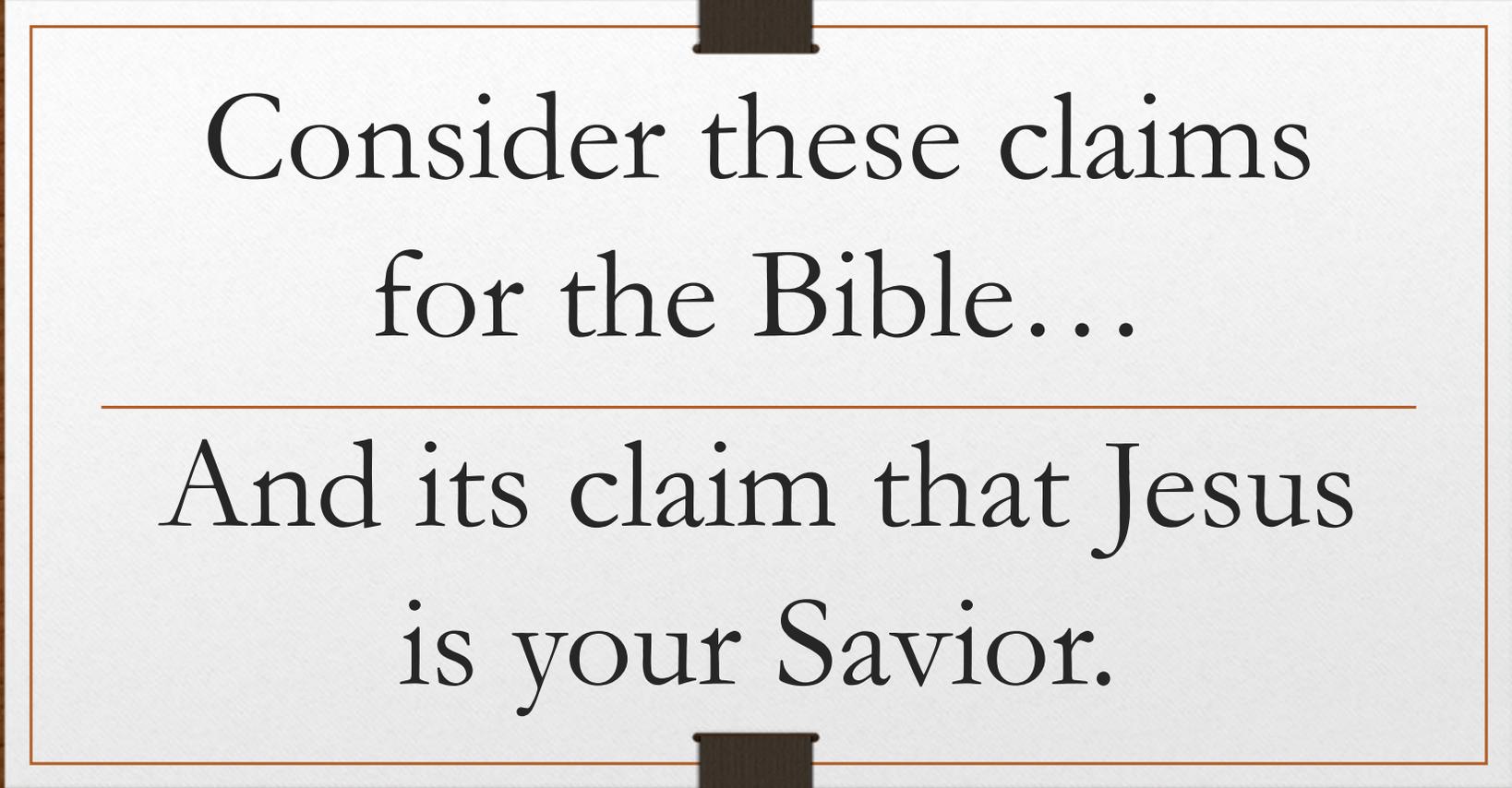
Could the Bible Be True?

“WHEN YOU HAVE READ THE BIBLE, YOU KNOW IT IS THE WORD OF GOD, BECAUSE IT IS THE KEY TO YOUR HEART, YOUR OWN HAPPINESS, AND YOUR OWN DUTY.”

-Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the U.S.

Claims For the Bible

- It has not changed over the years. Though it's old, it can be trusted.
- It does align with the archaeological and historical record.
- It was written shortly after the events took place so it is very accurate.
- It does not contradict itself even though it was written by many authors over 1,500 years.
- It was written by people who were so sure it was true that they died for their writing.



Consider these claims
for the Bible...

And its claim that Jesus
is your Savior.

The Implications

- I cannot absolutely prove to you that the Bible is true.
 - In the same way that I cannot absolutely prove that any history or source is true.
- But I hope I have given you enough evidence to show that you that the Bible is more reliable than you thought.
 - I hope you'll give it a chance.
- The implications of believing or not believing the Bible are potentially, infinitely massive.

I hope I've shown you enough to make you consider not betting eternity against it.

If you'd like to know
more...

Come to our Bible study
on Tuesdays at 6:30.

References

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- Each slide includes in its notes the source where the information was gathered from, below you will find the most frequently used:
 - Clark, Mark A. *The Problem of God: Answering a Skeptic's Challenges to Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2017.
 - McDowell, Josh. *The Best of Josh McDowell: A Ready Defense*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993.
 - McDowell, Josh, and Sean McDowell. *Evidence That Demands a Verdict: Life-Changing Truth for a Skeptical World*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2017.
 - Taylor, Paul F. "Isn't the Bible Full of Contradictions?" *Answers in Genesis*, August 12, 2010. <https://answersingenesis.org/contradictions-in-the-bible/isnt-the-bible-full-of-contradictions/>.
 - Wilson, Clifford. "Does Archaeology Support the Bible?" *Answers in Genesis*, January 4, 2008. <https://answersingenesis.org/archaeology/does-archaeology-support-the-bible/>.
 - All Bible Quotes are from the English Standard Version (ESV) translation.

Questions? Comments?

Thank You for
Attending!