

Theology Refresh – Part 4 - Why I Believe the Bible and You Can Too

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God^[b] may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Charles Spurgeon - “Defend the Bible? I would as soon defend a lion! Unchain it and it will defend itself.”

1. Revelation (two kinds)

- General Revelation

Creation

Psalms 19:1-4 –The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above^[a] proclaims his handiwork. ² Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. ³ There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. ⁴ Their voice^[b] goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Romans 1:19-20 - For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world,^[a] in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Psalms 8:3-4 –When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Common Grace

Matthew 5:44-45 - But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Psalms 145:9 - The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Conscience

Rom 2:14-15 - For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them

John 16:8 - And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.

- Special Revelation

a. Incarnation

John 1:1-5, 14 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it....And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son^[a] from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 1:1-2 - Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

b. Holy Spirit

Romans 5:5 - and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 8:16 – The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God

Hebrews 2:4 - while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

c. Scriptures

2 Peter 1:16-21 - For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son,[□] with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2. What is the Bible – General Information

The Bible was written over a period of more than 1,500 years, in three different languages (Hebrew, Greek and a little Aramaic), by more than 40 authors on three different continents (Africa, Asia, Europe).

It contains 66 separate books. 39 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament Books

Genres of Scripture

Verses and Chapter

3. Why do we Believe it is God's Word?

The Bible is God's Word to us. It is God's inspired, inerrant, authoritative Word.

Inspired - God-breathed

Written by God and man but not coauthored.

2 Peter 1:20-21 - knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Inerrant – Without error. The Bible is good on its claims and the original writings.

The Bible repeatedly affirms that all of Scripture is profitable for us (2 Tim. 3:16) and that all of it is "God-breathed." Thus it is completely pure (Ps. 12:6), perfect (Ps. 119:96), and true (Prov. 30:5).

Jesus repeatedly affirms that Scripture cannot be broken

Matt 5:18 - For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished

Matt 22:31- And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God

"We affirm that a confession of the full authority, infallibility, and inerrancy of Scripture is vital to a sound understanding of the whole of the Christian faith. We further affirm that such confession should lead to increasing conformity to the image of Christ. We deny that such a confession is necessary for salvation. However, we further deny that inerrancy can be rejected without grave consequences, both to the individual and the church." - Chicago Statement of the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy

Authoritative – Final Word

The Bible is our ultimate Word on matters of faith and life. It is:

given by God's inspiration; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:19-21, the very words of God; 1 Thess. 2:13 a perfect guide to life; Prov. 6:23 pure; Ps. 12:6; 119:140 true; Ps. 119:160; John 17:17, trustworthy; Prov. 30:5-6 perfect; Ps. 19:7, effective; Isa. 55:11, powerful; Heb. 4:12, not to be taken from or added to; Deut. 4:2; 12:32, for everyone; Rom. 16:25-27, the standard by which all teaching is to be tested; Acts 17:11, to be obeyed. James 1:22

Sola Scriptura –

Doesn't it contain errors and contradictions?

Voddie Bauchman - I choose to the Bible because it is a reliable accurate collection of historical documents by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses, they report supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies and claim that their writings our divine instead of human origin

Collection of historical documents

Written by eyewitnesses

1 Cor 15:3-8 - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he 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. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

Multi translation argument

Over zealous monk argument

Threefold hole in this argument - Manuscript hole – 5,686 portions of the NT alone. With OT over 20000. In addition, there are over 19,000 copies in the Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic languages. The total supporting New Testament manuscript base is over 24,000. David Wallace – embarrassment of resources

- Julius Caesar Gallic Wars – less than 12 copies
- Aristotle poetics – less than 10 copies
- Socrates – 0 manuscripts, only thing we know is what Plato wrote.
- New Testament - None of the originals but the earliest is in the 1st century.
- Julius Caesar – earliest 1000 years after
- Aristotle – 1400 years
- Socrates – nothing
- Homers Iliad – 2100 years after original

Early on the Bible is translated in Syriac, Coptic, and Latin. Then the people would have to have all the translations and languages and find them and change them all without anyone knowing them. You would have to live 300 years to get this done. Impossible

Early Church Fathers – we have so much of the early church fathers and they quoted from the NT extensively so much so that 90-95 of the NT can be reproduced from the early church fathers. A recent study says that we can translate every verse except 11 from the NT from the early church fathers writings.

- **Report supernatural events**

- **These events occur for specific prophecies.** Jesus fulfills over 300 such prophecies.

Ps 22- exactly what Jesus says when He was being crucified. Crucifixion was not yet invented. Virgin birth. Born in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2); Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zech 11:12 and Jeremiah); Bones not being broken (Psalm 34:20). So many others as well. Book of Daniel and the rise of different empires and kingdoms.

- **Writings are divine instead of human origin**

What is the Canon of Scripture?

Canon –

Apocrypha -

Pseudepigrapha (Book of Enoch) –

What does the Bible contain?

Theme of the Scriptures –

John 5:39-40 - You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

What About all Those Translations?

- Formal equivalence –
- Functional equivalence -