

# THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

## HOW WE RESPOND TO ACCUSATIONS AGAINST GOD

*"let God be true, but every man a liar;  
as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings,  
and mightest overcome when thou art judged."*

~ Romans 3:4

### 1. When in Doubt ...

- a. Ostriches, 10% of brains, water/electricity, camel humps, bats and blindness.
- b. Not everything you hear/read is true. There are reasons to doubt many things.
- c. *"The Bible has many mistakes."* *"There is no evidence for God."* *"The Bible is misogynist, racist, violent, unjust, outdated."* ... what is your response?
- d. Born gay, promiscuity, Bible has mistakes, evolution disproves Bible, etc.
- e. Doubt ~def. To waiver or fluctuate in opinion, to be in uncertainty regarding truth.
- f. When you are in doubt... whose testimony do you believe?

### 2. The Benefit of the Doubt

- a. A mistake → thinking that no one thinks contrary to you. (doubts!!)
- b. Scientists, academics, scholars, professionals, experienced, pope get benefit of truth
  - i. *"If there is a mistake, they will find it. If they find one, it must be so."*
- c. When the choice is between those credible witnesses and God who gets the benefit?
- d. The benefit of the doubt ~def. to decide that you will believe someone, even though you are not sure that what the person is saying is true
- e. Is God more credible than men? Deu 32:4, Ps 119:160, 138:2
  - i. Too hard to believe? Exo 14:22, Isa 34:7, 1 Cor 1:19, 2:14, 3:18
  - ii. Many doubts caused by wrong division, proof-text, numbers, unexplainable.
  - iii. If you come to the book looking to doubt – you will find reason.
  - iv. If you come to the book looking to believe – you will find reason.
  - v. How to know? Put his words in you - Prov 22:18-21, 1 Thess 2:13
  - vi. Don't change his testimony because you don't know the answer!
- f. Give God the benefit of the doubt over scholarship.

### 3. Accusations and Innocence

- a. If God is not true, then true justice cannot be done.
- b. Accusation ~def. The act of charging with a wrong, injustice, crime, offense.
- c. The Bible → defend the accused. Innocent until proven guilty – Deu 19:15-20
  - i. Protecting the credible and innocent – Num 35:30, Matt 18:16, 1 Tim 5:19
  - ii. The presence of an accusation (a doubt) does not warrant guilt.
- d. Justice → It is the accused that should be protected by law/trial, not the accuser.
- e. Letting God be true, means the accusations are tried – Rom 3:4, Job 40:8, John 3:33
- f. God is innocent. God is true. All the accusations and claims against him are false.
  - i. Giving him the benefit = accusers must prove their case, not just state it.