

We Believe the Bible is God's Word!"

Mark 7:6-13

Intro. – This morning, we believe the Bible is timeless, yes?! In the most factual sense, the Bible transcends time. Psalm 119:69 says, “Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven.” Isaiah 40:8 says, “The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the Word of our God stands forever.” Matthew 24:35 says, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.” Simply put, coming to us from eternal God, the Bible is bathed in the atmosphere of eternity.

Purpose: to reaffirm the authority of God's Word, the Bible

Through this message we want to demonstrate the reasonableness of standing alone on the Bible. We want to reaffirm the Bible as our sole source of authority in all matters of faith and practice. We want to instill the truth that the Bible is our objective reference point, complete, inerrant and absolutely trustworthy. We believe the Bible is God's Word for the following reasons:

I Its Divine UNITY

- Something of the Bible we often take for granted is its marvelous unity of form:

A. Consider Its Great Diversity

1. Written by some forty different writers, on three different continents.
2. Written in three different languages.
3. Written over a period of more than 1,500 years...
4. Written in wide variety: history, law, poetry, prophecy, biography, letters.

Despite Bible's great diversity, each book fits together into a single, unified book unlike non other.

B. Consider Its Theme

1. The theme is a mega-theme = *The Plan of Redemption* (the account of God's great plan to rescue man who is totally lost...)
2. Despite the diversity of its separate units, the Bible tells this one GRAND THEME!
3. There is one single plot and every section of the Bible is unfolding this plot. There is a beginning, a middle and an end.
 - Illus. – theme of the Bible has been likened to a growing plant: The roots are seen in Genesis. The rest of the OT is the stem. The Gospels, which present life/work of Jesus, are the flower. Acts and the epistles describe the fruit, which is the Church. The harvest is pictured in the book of Revelation.

C. Consider the Only Explanation

1. Not by chance = intelligent purpose/plan are involved.
2. Not just another piece of literature = not just on paper; actually happened = HISTORY!
3. Only satisfactory explanation = the plan and book are of divine origin = they are of God alone!

II Its Fulfilled PROPHECY

- prophecy is woven into the Bible's very fabric. Its contents record numerous predictions of events that later actually took place.

A. Downfall of a Great City

1. Ezekiel predicted the downfall of Tyre (Ezekiel 26).
2. Prophecy was written in 6th century B.C. and fulfilled in detail at the hands of Alexander the Great's army in late 4th century B.C.

B. Jews Rebuilding of Jerusalem

1. Isaian 44:28-45:7 = predicted God would use ruler named Cyrus to rebuild Jerusalem.
2. 2 centuries later, Cyrus, King of Persia, sent Jews Jerusalem from captivity to rebuild temple!

C. Concerning Jesus Himself

1. Micah 5:2 predicted hundreds of yrs prior that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.
2. Death of Jesus foretold seven hundred plus yrs before it happened by David (Psalm 22:11-21), yet striking description sounds like an eyewitness account...
3. There are literally 100's of other such prophecies in the Bible. They are not generalized or short-termed guesses. They are broad, precise in detail and long-ranged in time.

The only possible source of these interwoven prophetic accounts is God Himself!

III Its Unquestionable ACCURACY

- if the Bible is the inerrant Word of God (and it is!), we would expect it to be true in every respect in which it can be tested. Is the Bible accurate?

A. It Does Not Contradict Itself

1. The Bible is internally consistent... amazing in view of the great diversity discussed above.
2. Best test of this is the many parallel descriptions of the same event:
 - a. Gospels = accounts not given from the same perspective.
 - b. appear at first to be contradictions... but a careful study proves the exact opposite!

B. Historically It is Accurate

1. Walls of Jericho did fall as the Bible states = the spade has uncovered them...
2. King Sargon really did live and reign (Isaiah 20:1) – His name appears often in the history uncovered by archeology...
3. King Solomon really was the world's wealthiest man... etc. etc. etc.

The unquestionable accuracy of the Bible in all areas... give every reason to believe God's Word!

IV Its INDESTRUCTIBILITY

A. Through the Ages

1. Antiochus Epiphanes, Syrian King, with all his authority sought to destroy the O.T. in the second century B.C. He miserably failed in this attempt!
2. Roman Emperors waged 10 separate persecutions against Christians/Church/God's Word = failed!
3. Roman Church burned thousands of bibles and put to death hundreds of translators and yet the Bible flourished
4. Infidels and atheists have in all centuries sought to discredit and destroy the Bible – they all are dead and forgotten; yet, the Bible lives on!

B. At Present Time

1. Someone has said, "The Bible must be the Word of God to withstand such poor preaching!"
2. Consider the false standards of authority today:
 - a. human traditions are elevated to a level or even beyond Scripture.
 - b. personal experience and or opinion:
 - 1) "I-thinkism"...
 - 2) subjective experience takes precedence over objective Biblical authority.
3. Church's Purpose Statement: read...

Through it all, the Bible Stands – Great Hymn says it all "The Bible Standsy" (read words)

V Its Author's VIEW of It

- if Jesus is Lord (and He is!) then how Jesus viewed Scripture should be vital to us:

A. Its Divine Origin

1. Jesus acknowledged human authors – e.g. Moses (John 5:46); Isaiah (Matthew 15:7); David (Luke 20:42) etc.
2. Went further = taught that God Himself author of the Bible (our text)!

B. Its Perfect Reliability

1. Affirmed Bible's absolute reliability = John 17:17 "*Your Word is truth!*"
2. John 10:35 "*Scripture cannot be broken*" = can't be challenged, disproved or denied...!

C. Its Absolute Authority

1. Jesus appealed to Scripture to end all debate.
2. Matters of faith/doctrine were established by appealing to the written Word
 - a. e.g. Matthew 21:16 "*Have you not read*" i.e. what is written in the Word of God!
 - b. Matthew 4:4,7,10 and John 8:17 "*It is written...*" (i.e. and that is that!)....

Our view of Scripture is inescapably linked to our view of Jesus!

Conclusion: Want to conclude with a personal memory I have of my Dad to summarize this message. When I was a small boy, I vividly remember going on trips with Dad to revivals, men's meetings, etc. I remember my Dad introducing me... I remember the interaction between Christians... I remember Dad encouraging me to get up front and sing a favorite song of his and how he would often have to coax me to do it. I learned quickly though, you get attention getting up front; so, there were several occasions I would go up front and sing this song – one of my Dad's favorite.

Now, the memory of those *events* fade into utter insignificance when compared to the realization and understanding as to why the song sung was one of Dad's favorites:

The B-I-B-L-E

Yes, that's the book for me.

I stand alone on the Word of God

The B-I-B-L-E

This morning, without hesitation, I stand before you and declare this too is one of my favorite songs. Is it one of yours? Why? Because We Believe the Bible is God's Word!