IS THE BIBLE REALLY GOD’S WORD?
2 TIMOTHY 3:16 / 1-19-20 / A.M.

I. THE BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE GOD’S WORD.

2 PETER 1:20-21
2 Timothy 3:16

II. THE BIBLE IS A UNIQUELY WRITTEN BOOK.

A. Comprised of 66 books.
B. 40 different authors.
C. Written over 1,500 years.
D. Written in three different languages—Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic.
E. Written in 13 different countries.
F. Written on 3 different continents.
G. Yet for 3,600 hundred years, God’s Word continues to survive—Isa. 40:8.

III. HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE BIBLE WE HAVE TODAY IS A FAITHFUL COPY OF THE ORIGINAL?

A. There are no original copies of any ancient book, including the Bible.
B. One line of evidence are the number of copies we have of the Bible.
   1. There are 800 copies of Homer’s Iliad in existence today.
   2. However, there are 5,800 copies of the Bible in existence today including complete books and portions of books.
   3. In addition, there are 20,000 fragments of the Bible available today.
C. Another line of evidence is the timeline between the originals and our copies.
   1. For example, Homer wrote the Iliad in 800 B.C. and the oldest copy dates to 400 B.C.
   2. The timeline between the originals of the N.T. and copies available today is much shorter.
      a. The Chester Beatty Papyrus dates to 250 A.D.
b. The Bodmer Papyrus dates to 200 A.D.

c. The John Ryland Fragment of John dates to 125 B.C.

D. How old are our copies of the O.T.?

1. Before 1947 the oldest copy of the O.T. was the Masoretic Text dating to 900 A.D.

2. However, in 1947 the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered containing every O.T. book except Esther. These scrolls date to 100 B.C.

IV. SCIENTIFICALLY, THE BIBLE IS ACCURATE.

A. We must admit that the Bible isn’t a science book.

B. However, there other several things the Bible says that are scientifically correct. For example.

1. Genesis 1:1 says the universe had a beginning.

2. Jeremiah 33:22 says the stars are countless.

3. Isaiah 40:22 says the earth is a circle.

4. Isaiah 42:5 says the universe is expanding.

5. Job 26:7 says the earth hangs on its own in space.

V. THE BIBLE IS ARCHAEOLOGICALLY ACCURATE.

A. For example, archaeology has confirmed the existence of hundreds of cities mentioned in the Bible.

B. Four archaeological discoveries are worth citing.

1. “The Cylinder of Nabonidus” discovered in 1854 confirms that Belshazzar was a coregent with Nabonidus and thus the last king of Babylon confirming Daniel 5.

2. “The Pilate Stone” was discovered in 1961 in Northern Israel confirming that Pontus Pilate was governor in Israel when Jesus was crucified.

3. “The Caiaphas Ossuary” was discovered in 1990 confirming that he was the high priest when Jesus was crucified.

4. “The Heel Bone of a Crucified Man” discovered in 1968 is the only confirmation the Romans practiced crucifixion as a form of capital punishment at the time of Jesus.
VI. **PROPHETICALLY THE BIBLE IS ACCURATE.**

A. Over one-fourth of the Bible is made of prophecies and **two-thirds** of these have already been fulfilled.

B. Josh McDowell writes that the Bible contains 61 prophecies relating to Jesus alone, which Jesus fulfilled during his life time. Prophecies like...

1. Micah 5:2—born in **Bethlehem**.
2. Isaiah 7:14—born of a **virgin**.
3. Isaiah 40:3—proceeded by a **messenger**.
4. Isaiah 53:3—rejected by his own people.
5. Psalms 22—**crucified**.
7. Psalms 16:10—**resurrected**.

C. Statistician Peter Stoner in his book, “**Science Speaks**” calculated the probability of Jesus fulfilling just 8 prophecies at one hundred million billion. That’s 1 followed by 17 zeros.