

Lesson 1-3 The Bible

1. The Bible is called the word of God. How do we know it is?

2. The Bible is a very old book that has been in the custody of many humans; it has been assembled by humans, preserved by humans, and translated by humans. How do we know that we can trust them? Should we put our faith in their work?

3. Could dishonest men have distorted some words or some passages? Or maybe someone made an honest mistake?

4. What about the language? Language can change significantly in one generation. Have changes in language changed the meaning of the Bible?

5. Did some well-meaning theologians make changes to suit their beliefs?

6. Did God create mankind in the beginning, did Noah really build an ark; was Jonah really swallowed by a fish? How about Abraham, the prophets and the Psalms of David: Fact or Fiction?

7. Let's address some of these concerns in a logical manner. Since Jesus is the truth and if the Bible is the truth, there must be agreement. Shouldn't one confirm the other?

8. Jesus lived 2000 years ago. We have very detailed records of what He said and did. He was very direct in His criticisms of the religious establishment. He drove out the money changers from the temple; He called the Pharisees a brood of vipers; and He condemned hypocrisy. But, did He ever criticize the Holy Scriptures (Old Testament)?

9. One of the dictionary definitions of truth is "validation of facts." This is exactly what Jesus did. He validated the Holy Scriptures (Old Testament) as they existed in the temple at that time. He continually quoted them and taught from them. So we know that Noah did build an ark; Jonah was in the belly of a fish; and Abraham was told to sacrifice his son. We know that Adam and Eve were in the garden. These accounts were validated by Jesus.

10. The following are a few examples of Jesus validating the Scriptures.

Creation of Mankind

Matthew 19:4 He (Jesus) answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, (ESV)

Noah

Matthew 24:37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (ESV)

Jonah

Matthew 12:40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (ESV)

Abraham

Matthew 22:32 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living." (ESV)

Elijah

Luke 4:17 Et on lui donna le livre du prophète Ésaïe; et ayant déployé le livre, il trouva le passage où il était écrit:

Luke 4:18 "L'Esprit du *Seigneur est sur moi, parce qu'il m'a oint pour annoncer de bonnes nouvelles aux pauvres;

11. Do the Holy Scriptures validate the life of Jesus?

12. The Bible is full of prophecies. They were written many years before the birth of Jesus. These prophecies predicted His birth, life, death, decent to Hell, and His resurrection. For example:

He entered Jerusalem on a donkey

Prophecy: Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Fulfilled: Matthew 21:7 They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them.

He bore our grief/sorrows

Prophecy: **Isaiah 53:4** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Fulfilled: **Matthew 8: 16-17** That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.
Matthew 8:17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

His hands/feet were pierced

Prophecy: **Isaiah. 53:5** But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

Fulfilled: **John 19:18** There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them

Cast lots for His clothing

Psalms 22:18 they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

John 19:24 so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things,

Jesus' words on the cross

Psalms 22:1 To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

13. There are many more – From Genesis to Revelation. Do you know of others? If not, do you know how to find them?

14. Therefore, Jesus validated the Holy Scriptures (Old Testament) and the Scriptures foretold/validated Jesus. But, Jesus is now with the Father in Heaven and we need validation for the New Testament, continued validation of the Old Testament, and confidence in our personal conversations with God. How can we get these?

15. Read John 14:16-17

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,
John 14:17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.
John 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Jesus said "I will not leave you as orphans..." As we have studied in lesson 2, Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit in His place to validate and interpret the word of God so we can have access to the truth. The Holy Spirit supplies us with constant validation of all truth: The Bible and our personal communication with God.

16. This is part of God's perfect creation. He has provided a way of keeping truth pure for us. It is perfect when it leaves His mouth; it is perfect in the form of Jesus; and it is perfect when it enters our spirit as it is filtered by the Holy Spirit.

	Perfect		Pollution		Purified by	
God ->	Truth	->	of the	->	the	-> You
	Bible		world		Holy Spirit	

17. Arthur teaches a Bible study and would like to know how many times the word "truth" is used in the New Testament. He also would like to know where the Scripture about Jesus being the truth is located. How can he find the answers to these questions?

Or, he can go to our website and download a Bible with software to search for this information. The software has a search function (icon - binocular glasses) that will search the entire Bible in seconds. For example, he can search for "truth" and count the number of places it is found and he can find the passage where Jesus says, "I am the truth."

18. Odette is a believer and loves to read the New Testament; she doesn't read the Old Testament because she thinks it isn't relevant. What do you think?

19. Roland is a believer and reads the Bible every day. He has read a passage that seems to disagree with accepted scientific evidence and is confused. What should he do?

20. It troubles Margo, a believer, that she can't understand much of the Bible. What should she do?

21. The Bible is a spiritual book and must be read by faith. In lesson 4, we will discuss faith and how to use it and understand it.

22. The Bible has a reputation of transforming lives. To the unbeliever, it is foolishness, but to the believer, it is the power of God.

23. **Conclusion: The Bible is true and can be trusted, not in itself, but because of the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the word of God; it was validated by Jesus; and is continually validated by the Spirit of Truth (the Holy Spirit).**

24. Memory verse: Psalm 119:105

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

25. To do: Read the Bible every day. Be aware that if you are a believer, the Holy Spirit is in you and helping you understand the word of God. Also, the Bible is a source of faith as we will discuss in lesson 4.