

An Introduction to the Bible

Psalm 20

To the chief Musician. A Psalm of David.
A prayer for the king.
1 THE LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee.
2 Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee from Zion.
3 Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy sacrifice, Selah.
4 Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel.
5 We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions.
6 Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.
7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.
8 They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.
9 Save, LORD: let the king hear us when we call.

Psalm 21

To the chief Musician. A Psalm of David.
Splendor and success of the king.
1 THE KING shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!
2 Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah.

Introduction

- We are living in different times than just a few decades ago.
- Fewer Americans believe in the Bible or God
- Biblical illiteracy continues to increase.
- **HOWEVER**, there is always someone who is looking!

Introduction

- As society continues to degrade morally and ethically, I believe that more will begin to search for answers.
- Some might be willing to consider the Bible.
- IF Someone asked you to introduce them to the Bible, what would you say?

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Facts About the Bible!

- “Bible” means *book* or *scroll*
- “Scripture” means *writings*. When translated “scripture” in our Bibles, it is always a reference to “sacred writings” (51x in NT)
- Our English Bibles distinguish between *scripture* and other writings



Facts About the Bible!

- The Bible consists of 66 books
- Our Bible is the gathering of the collection of these books.



Facts About the Bible!

- The Bible is divided into 2 testaments
- A testament indicates a covenant – a binding or sacred agreement between 2 or more parties.
- In the case of the Bible, the covenant is between God and His people.
- The English concept of a “will” helps us to understand this



Facts About the Bible!

- The Old Testament
- Called “old” because it is the first
- Consists of 39 books and accounts the history of Israel, God’s people who brought Christ into this world.



Facts About the Bible!

- The Old Testament
- It is further broken down into:
 - The Law of Moses (5 books)
 - Books of history (12 books)
 - Books of poetry (5 books)
 - Books of prophecy (17 books)
Sometimes divided into “major” (5)
and “minor” (12) prophets

Facts About the Bible!

- The Old Testament
- Mostly written in Hebrew, with a few texts in Aramaic (the common language of Israel later in its history). Hebrew was still used in formal Jewish worship.



Facts About the Bible!

- The New Testament
- It replaced the “old” testament as God’s law
- Consists of 27 books
 - Gospels (4)
 - Acts of the apostles (1)
 - Writings (21). 13-14 written by Paul, the rest are called “general letters” (7-8)
 - Revelation – prophecy (1)



Facts About the Bible!

- The New Testament
- It is God's law that we are under.
- It was written in Greek, the common language of the Roman Empire while Christ and His apostles were on the earth.
- It is written and applies to **EVERYONE!**



Facts About the Bible!

- The whole Bible
- Each book was originally written on scrolls in their original language.
- The only separation in documents was to begin a new book (except for the psalms).
- Today we have chapters and verses, which originated in 1227 AD and 1382 (the Wycliffe bible)



Facts About the Bible!

- Creating the Bible
- Written over a period of 1600 years (1500 BC - ~100 AD)
- Written by about 40 men, in 3 different languages, on 3 continents (Europe, Asia & Africa)



Facts About the Bible!

- Creating the Bible
- Writers from different backgrounds – kings & princes, shepherds, military leaders, scribes, fishermen, government officials, a physician and a tent maker, etc.
- Written from palaces to wilderness to prisons.



Facts About the Bible!

- Creating the Bible
- Written in many different styles – Law, narrative, historical, legal, poetry, songs, proverbs, prayers, parables, letters & prophecies, etc.
- These facts together helps us understand why it is the word of God.



Facts About the Bible!

- Its impact on the world
- #1 best seller of all times and always, with more than 100 million copies sold each year (20 million purchased in USA).
Bookstores and online outlets devoted exclusively to its content
- It has been the inspiration for visual art, music and literature.



Facts About the Bible!

- Its impact on the world
- As of September 2022, the complete Bible has been translated into more than 700 languages. With portions made available in at least 3500 languages. (The NT more than 1600 languages).
The Bible is available in languages of more than 95% of the world's population. (Stats from Wycliffe Global Alliance)



Facts About the Bible!

- Its impact on the world
- Treated with the greatest of care to preserve its integrity and message.
- Concerning the New Testament, we have more than 25,000 ancient manuscripts, with about 5,500 in Greek (the original language).
- Also, more than 90% of it has been quoted by early church leaders in the first few centuries after Jesus.

Facts About the Bible!

- Its impact on the world
- It has survived every conceivable attack, but it is still viewed as relevant by the majority.
 - Age destroys fragile documents
 - Attempts to outlaw distribution, translation and use, AND villainize its content have all failed to eradicate it



Facts About the Bible!

- Its impact on the world
- It has influenced the formation of many nations, including the U.S.. Our founding documents considered its moral and ethical teachings.
- Its impact is so great, that every other major system of belief (including atheism/agnosticism) has to address its influence and teachings.

Bible – Inspired by God

- What does inspiration mean?
- In its broadest sense, it means to be affected or influenced by someone or something.
- When used in the Bible, it means that it is influenced by God.
- **2 Timothy 3:16** – “God breathed”.
The point, writers wrote what God intended for them to write as He directed them to do so.

Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- Why is this important?
- Because if the Bible is from God, we must listen to what it says.
- It will help answer some of the pressing questions man has about life
 - Why am I here?
 - Where did I come from?
 - Where am I headed?
 - Does it really matter what I believe?



Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- Its claims of inspiration
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – directly declares this
- **Exodus 24:3-4** – “all the words of the LORD and all the judgments...”
- **Isaiah 1:2** – “... For the LORD has spoken”
- “Thus says the Lord...” found ~240x in OT; “The Lord said...” - ~225x; The “word of God” - ~45x; “The word of the Lord” - ~250+x, etc.

Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- Its claims of inspiration
- **1 Corinthians 14:37** – Paul clearly claimed his writings were inspired
- **Galatians 1:12** – *“it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*
- **Ephesians 3:3-5** – *“the Lord made known by revelation...”*



Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- Its claims of inspiration
- **1 Corinthians 2:10-13** - we know what God wants because He has revealed it
- **2 Peter 1:19-21** - holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit



Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- Its accuracy when dealing with external elements
- The Bible is not a book on science, geography or world history. But when it does address such issues, often ahead of verified discoveries, it is always found to be accurate.



Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- Its accuracy when dealing with external elements
- Consider science:
- **Acts 17:26** – all humans are made from one blood
- **Psalm 8:8** – the “paths of the sea”
- Sanitary laws directed toward Israel (**Leviticus**)



Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- Its accuracy when dealing with external elements
- Consider geography:
- With archaeology, places, people and events mentioned in the Bible are often verified. This is true of places and the culture of the times they lived. E.g., the culture of Israel during Abraham (2000 BC) and David (1000 BC) was different than that of Jesus (30-70 AD).

Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- The power of prophecy
- Prophecy involves the foretelling of events in such a way that the involvement of God is undeniable. Details can be so specific that mere coincidence is improbable.



Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- The power of prophecy
- Consider **Isaiah 44:28-45:1**
- Cyrus is mentioned as God's shepherd who would declare Jerusalem would be rebuilt.
- Prophesied around 700 BC and fulfilled ~536 BC
- 140+ years prior to the event, Isaiah named the king (**Ezra 1:1**)

Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- The power of prophecy
- Consider **Isaiah 44:28-45:1**
- Between the prophecy and event:
 - 8 kings/rulers in Jerusalem over 100+ years
 - Jerusalem had to be destroyed (586 BC)

This prophecy prompts skeptics to say there were 2 Isaias or that it was written later

Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- The power of prophecy
- Consider Jesus' death by crucifixion
- Recorded in all 4 gospels and mentioned throughout the NT.
- Details of His crucifixion are recorded in **Psalm 22** (~1000 BC) and **Isaiah 53** (~700 BC) with great accuracy.
- This demonstrates that what would happen to Jesus was known by God long before He experienced it.

Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- The power of prophecy
- In the Old Testament, there are at least 48 specific prophecies about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

• The odds of all these being fulfilled in 1 person are so astronomical they are described as nearly impossible.

• Yet Jesus fulfilled them all!

Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- The power of prophecy
- Prophecy alone ought to convince us to take the Bible seriously, as only God, with absolute control, could foretell such events with that degree of accuracy.



Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- Because of its united message
- The Bible claims to be true –

John 17:17

Psalm 119:151, *You are near, O Lord, And all Your commandments are truth.*



Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- Because of its united message
- Consider our above description of its creation
 - 40 different authors
 - over 1600 years
 - 3 languages
 - different places and walks of life
- YET it presents a united message of redemption from beginning to end.
These writers do not contradict each other as to God's plans!

Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- Because of its united message
- It centers around the life of Jesus.

The Bible is about man's fall because of sin and God's plan to redeem man.

He did this through Jesus – His death, burial and resurrection



Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- Because of its united message
- It centers around the life of Jesus.
 - *The Old Testament shows how God implemented a plan that would eventually redeem man*
 - *The gospels tell the redemptive story of the life of Jesus*
 - *The rest of the NT shows how His plan was established and grew.*

Why Should I Believe the Bible?

- Because of its united message
- The ONLY way this united message is possible is if there was an intelligent and controlling source behind it all.

“Design demands a designer”

- **God IS that designer!**



This is why one should
believe that the Bible is the
word of God!

AND if it is the word of God,
then we need to listen to
what it is telling us to do!



“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12



How can we help you better understand His will for you?



