

Truth of the Bible

Th 203 Systematic Theology

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There are many books that have been debated about accuracy, but there is only one that has been the most debated throughout history. The one that I'm speaking of is the Bible. The Bible has for centuries been underneath attack for many different reasons, but the accuracy of the Bible is the most debatable question, that still has scholars going back and forth about its errancy. There are several reasons that the Bible is true, and it can be seen spiritually and naturally, but for me, the truth lies in knowing the God of the Bible. Critics have tried to discredit the Bible, but the Bible holds truth on its own without the need of external evidence. To make this point for the truth of scripture three views will be addressed. There is its divine origin, Gods attributes, and historical references. Each one will be discussed and will show that the Bible is accurate.

First, there is the matter of historical events. Historical events play a significant role in knowing the accuracy of the scripture. Throughout the Bible, there are authors, events, and Christ himself that have been key elements at holding true to scripture. The Old Testament, unlike the New Testament, has been given accreditation for showing proof of the truth of scripture through several different avenues. One way that the Old Testament is validated is through the New Testament. Throughout the teachings of Jesus and the authors of the New Testament, they often refer to the Old Testament in their teachings. For example Jesus refers to (Matthew 19:4-5) 4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'[a] 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'[b]? Jesus goes all the way back to the book of Genesis and begins to quote for its passage for his message.

Then there is Jesus authority to speak on behalf of scripture, even to Satan himself. (Matthew 4:7)7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'[d]" Jesus speaks over and over throughout the scripture what is written in the Bible. He is

speaking of the authority that the written word has even over Satan. Jesus in this next verse declares that Gods word is the truth. (John 17:17) 17 Sanctify them by[a] the truth; your word is truth. Critics themselves don't deny the existence of Christ, so the question of Christ is not an issue unless you don't believe, but if you do believe Christ is God reincarnated in the flesh, it gives Jesus the divine authority to speak on behalf of the truth of scripture. This shows that even in the New Testament, it gives proof that the Old Testament is true.

There have been archeological findings that date back to the time period in which certain events described in scripture have been produced. There is also the fact that some of these events that are recorded in the Bible have been mention in other ancient literature of other cultures. There is also mention of events of certain rulers that were named in the Bible, and scholars have found out that it lines up with that of that certain culture, and around that time period. Throughout the Bible, you can see certain grammar and phrases that were used during this time. This proves that at the time of the writing, they were amongst the very people that used that same type of grammar. The bible is made up of three different languages; Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. During the 400 years of silence, that is mention in the bible we see that the Jews were in captivity under Roman government. This is how we see different languages and grammar find its way into scripture. This tells me that I can trust the word of God that it holds true on its own.

As with the New Testament, some have argued about the accuracy of the scripture. There are several problems that arise when it comes to this matter. There is the issue of the dates of the manuscripts. Although dating of manuscripts has been debated, it can be answered through other earlier findings that date back as earlier as A.D. 117-138. Then there is the account of Christ that proves as evidence for scripture. Unless someone doesn't believe that Christ lived, then we can trust the accounts of Christ throughout scripture.

Next, Unless I know the truth about the God of the Bible, then I will not be able to properly defend the truth of scripture. People beliefs about whether the Bible is true or not is based off what they know about God, it is one of the reasons why Gods attributes play a vital role in why I believe the Bible is true. When I talk about relating Gods attributes to his Word, it means that because this is the word of God, then what I believe as truth derives on what we know to be true about him. One of Gods attributes is that he is omnipresent. God can always be in all places. When I know that God can always be in all places, lets me know that he is a God that is not caught up in time. That means that he can be in my past, present, and future at the same time because he has no limits.

When I say that God is eternal, meaning that he has no past, present or future. I know that his word says, (Psalms 139: 7-10) 7Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. There are many attributes of God, and they all allow a person to see that the truth of the written word has God nature throughout it, and because I believe the truth about who God is, I also believe this when I read about him in his Word.

God is also immutable, that he cannot change in his nature. (Numbers 23:19) God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? Knowing about the character of God, helps you know about the God you serve and why you serve him. It would be hard for me to defend scripture as being true if I did not know that God can not lie. Because I know that he can't lie and that this is his Word, it only adds to my truth about scripture.

Finally, in order to know the truth of the Bible we need to know its divine origin. Knowing about the Bible historically and about the attributes of God are great bases on which you can make a case for the Bible, but the most important source is knowing the God of the Bible. Scripture says in (2 Timothy 3:16) 16All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for instruction, for conviction, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work. Knowing the original author of the Bible will make a case for its authenticity, then anything else would ever be able to do. The Word of God isn't just a book that man wrote from his own thoughts, like many other pieces of literature, but the Bible is the only book that is divinely inspired. This leaves out all other doubts about where scripture originated. Although some have suggested that these words are man thoughts, this is not the case.

The Bible clearly says that scripture is God-breathed. The only way to discredit the written word is not to believe in the author himself. When a person suggests that the Bible somehow is not true, it is almost as if they are attacking the authenticity of God himself. If you question the authenticity of the Bible, then you are in some way questioning the authenticity of the God of the Word. There is in no way that you can separate God from his Word. When reading the scripture, you will see God's nature throughout scripture. The truth about him can be seen through all these different areas and can't be denied. You will see him work through miracles, creation, prophecy, history and man. My belief about what is true is what I believe to be true about God.

(John 1:1-5) 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all

mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome[a] it. This verse describes that Christ was the Word and he was there in the beginning, that he was with God, and he was God. You can't separate something that existed far beyond the time of man and universe. There is no doubt from which scripture originates, because the Word was with God even from the beginning of time.

Although literature can error the Bible cannot error, because the source of its context has no error within himself. If the source is God and we know that He can't lie, then we also know that word cannot contain any error. The Bible uses all types of grammar, sentence structure and phrases, but the bible is the only book that can contain all types of elements that are related to human speech, it can't be compared with any other literature that can be effects of human error.

In conclusion, because God said this is his Word, I believe, and I don't need any other proof, but if asked the question, I would have to say: I believe the word is true because of the God of the scripture. I believe He can't lie and that everything that he says is the truth.

Archeologist may sign off for accuracy. Scholars may use the New Testament to prove the Old Testament and use Jesus Christ for its proof, but the only proof that is needed in order to give accuracy of scripture is the God of the scripture.

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