

LESSON 2

The Importance of the Bible

Illustration:

The French atheist Voltaire was a famous writer who owned his own printing press in the 1700s. He did everything he could to disprove the Bible and once boasted that within 25 years he'd have the Bible lodged in a morgue! Within 25 years Voltaire was lodged in a morgue having died a miserable death. Ironically, the Geneva Bible Society bought Voltaire's press and property to print and distribute the Word of God around the world.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BIBLE

A. The Bible was inspired and given by God

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (II Pet 1:21). All scripture is given by inspiration of God.. (II Tim 3:16).

B. The Bible will guide us through life

Psalms 119:105, Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Matthew 4:4, (Jesus) answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

C. The Bible is the source of truth

(Jesus said).. John 17:17, Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth. The big question today is... where is the truth! The Bible is called "the Word of truth"(II Tim 2:15). The Bible is our Creator's instruction manual on life!

*"It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible."
--George Washington*

D. The Bible is the pathway to find God

Romans 10:17, Faith (to find God) cometh by ...the Word of God.

E. The Bible will show us what is 'missing in life'

Hebrews 4:12, The Word of God is powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword ...and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Side note: After winning three Super Bowls, quarterback Tom Brady still said, 'there has got to be more to life than this!'

F. The Bible is God's Word

1 Thessalonians 2:13, When ye received the Word of God ...ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God. II Timothy 3:16, All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine ... for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

G. God values the Bible above His own Names

Psalms 138:2, *Thou (God) hast magnified thy Word above all thy name. **The Bible is the only thing Jesus ever quoted** (many times).*

H. The Bible was greatly revered by the prophets

Jewish scribes would take a bath & get a new quill before writing ‘*Jehovah*’. There are 3800 references in OT alone to the Bible being called *the Word of God*. The Bible is the only source of information about; Who God is, where we’ve come from, why we’re here, what happens when we die, the flood, the Jewish nation, all doctrine, 10 commandments, God’s standards on all the issues, i.e.- right & wrong, marriage, children, finances, political matters, the way to heaven, etc.

I. The Bible is the only source of information about Jesus

Jesus said, *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me*, (John 5:39). John 20:31, *These (scriptures) are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

J. The Bible is more sure than seeing or experiencing something

2 Peter 1:18-21, *And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed.*

K. The Bible has been preserved

Psalms 12:6-7, *The words of the LORD are pure words...Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.* Psalms 119:160, *Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.* Luke 21:33, (Jesus said) *Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.* Millions have died upholding it, preaching it, and preserving it.

L. Satan hates the Bible and his first attack was to cast doubt on what God said

Genesis 3:1, *He said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said? ... (sounds like scoffers today).*

Historical Side Note:

In 1948, a young Arab shepherd in Israel found the Dead Sea Scrolls in a cave while looking for a lost sheep. Additional findings in ten other caves in the same Qumran region over the next decade gave the world a jigsaw puzzle of 100,000 pieces of ancient texts that were the remains of 870 scrolls representing all or portions of every book of our Old Testament. These OT scrolls date back hundreds of years before Christ, and line up exactly word for word with our current King James Bible! (Masoretic text)

M. The Bible interprets itself

2 Peter 1:20-21, *No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (We are not to just interpret the Bible as we please, but *compare scripture with scripture* – I Cor 2:13). Example: There are things mentioned in the last book of the Bible (Rev 12:1) that are interpreted in the first book of the Bible (Gen 37:9).*

N. The Bible has always miraculously come to pass (prophecy).

1. When originally written, 1/3rd of the Bible was prophecy (predictions).

Through hundreds of predictions it has always been 100% accurate in foretelling the future. 1 Kings 8:56, *Blessed be the LORD, ... there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised.*

2. God started the Jewish race 3500 years ago and promised to preserve it for all time.

While many other races and civilization have been eliminated, the Jews have survived all the persecution of Babylon, Greece, Rome, Hitler, etc. God predicted the Jews would go into a 70 year captivity beginning in 606 BC (Jer 29:10). One hundred years before King Cyrus was born, God predicted him by his name and said he would free the Jews from this captivity, (Isa 44:28). God drove the Jews from their land in 70AD for 1900 years. In May of 1948 the Jews returned in a fulfillment of prophecy.

3. There are 333 OT prophecies about Jesus.

Born of tribe of Judah, lineage of David, born of a virgin in Bethlehem, Herod seeking to kill, Mary & Joseph flee to Egypt, (Dan 9:25, Jesus appears 'to the day'.. April 4, 30AD).. rejected of the Jews, betrayed by Judas for 30 pc. of silver, his trial, spit & beat on, gall & vinegar, cast lots, crucified between 2 thieves, buried in borrowed tomb, etc.

Illustration:

A university study calculated the odds of one man fulfilling just 8 of the 333 Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus Christ. According to their findings, the odds are 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. That is 1 in 10 to the power of 17.

To illustrate this, suppose we take 100,000,000,000,000,000 silver dollars and spread them over the entire state of Texas. (They would cover the whole state two feet deep). Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly. Then, blindfold a man and tell him he must pick up the marked silver dollar. What chance would he have of picking the marked silver dollar on his first try? He would have the same chance that the prophets had in writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man. Finally, consider the fact that Jesus not only fulfilled eight Old Testament prophecies but 333, and we end up with odds that are ASTRONOMICAL!

Ezekiel 12:25, *For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass.*

O. The Bible will be there on Judgment Day and we'll be judged out of it

John 12:48, (Jesus said) *He that ...receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day...* Rev 20:12, *The dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books (there are 66 books to the Bible).*

P. The Bible should never be tampered with

Revelation 22:18-19, *If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book (found in hell): And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life (he will not make it into heaven).*

Q. Many will reject the Bible

II Timothy 4:2-4 *Preach the word... For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (religious tradition, evolution, humanism).*

R. It's dangerous not to believe the Bible

Hebrews 3:7-8,12, *To day if ye will hear his voice (speaking from His Word), Harden not your hearts ... Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief.*

ACCEPTING THE BIBLE WILL CHANGE YOUR HEART AND LIFE

Illustration:

Lew Wallace was an agnostic writer and territorial Governor in the 19th century. His best friend Robert Ingersoll was a famous atheist who continually tried to 'debunk' the Bible. While traveling together through St. Louis and observing all the church steeples, a disgusted Ingersoll challenged Wallace to write a book to disprove the Bible and the life of Christ. Wallace accepted the challenge and departed to the holy land while studying the Bible. Instead of disproving anything, Lew Wallace himself became a devout believer in the Bible and Jesus Christ. He went on to write the famous novel; Ben Hurr!

If you would like to continue having this Bible study with either Pastor Scheving or someone from the staff of FBC, please call Elaine our church secretary at 232-5500.