

What Does History Say About The Bible
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This weekend we studied what history had to say about the Word of God. We started by studying how God chose what books He wanted to place into the Bible and why the 66 books we have are authoritative. From internal and external evidence as well as in literature and archeology, the Bible is supreme among all books. The internal evidence shows that God writes history in advance and is perfect in His prophecy 100% of the time. Which simply leads us to decide whether or not we will accept the truth of the Word of God or reject it. My hope as you discuss the sermon from this past weekend is that you will have a greater confidence in the Word of God.

Here are the notes from this past weekend...

QUICK REVIEW

The Enemy wants you to DOUBT God's (Genesis 3)

- WORD
- GOODNESS
- JUSTICE
- AUTHORITY

The Written Word testifies it is...

- Eternal (Isaiah 40:8)
- Inspired (2 Timothy 3:16)
- Infallible (2 Peter 1:20-21)
- Inerrant (John 10:35a)
- Supernatural (Genesis-Revelation)

The written Word reveals the Living Word (John 1:1,14, Hebrews 1:1-3)

The Living Word believed ALL the written Word...

- Testifies about Him (John 5:39-40)
- Testifies to the Truth (John 18:37)
- Testifies He is God (Mark 14:62)
- Testifies He is central to all salvation (John 14:6)

SERMON NOTES

What Does History Say About the Bible?

Selected Scriptures

History of Canonization

History of Prophecy

History of Response

Please use any of the following questions if they prove to be helpful to you...

1. A criteria for the books of the Bible was important in determining which books made the canon of Scripture.
 - a. Being an apostle or prophet
 - b. Recognition of authority within the Covenant community of God
 - c. Orthodox doctrine
 - d. High moral standards reflecting the Holy Spirit's work
 - e. A demonstration of supernatural power were some of the standards discussed.

Why was having a standard important for which books were authoritative? How believable is it to conceive that the same God that penned the Words of Scripture had the ability to preserve them? Who ultimately was responsible for the books that we have in the canon?

2. How compelling is the evidence of the Bible compared to that of Julius Caesar crossing the Rubicon or Homer's Iliad? How did you feel when you learned that we have over 5,800 Greek New Testament manuscripts all testifying to the same truth?
3. The more we move away from history, the more we discover to be true about the Word of God. What were some of the things you learned this weekend that have been discovered in time that prove the Bible is true?
4. How did it encourage you to know that in 1947, that the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered which revealed the validity of our Old Testament from scrolls as old as 400 years before Christ?
5. What are some of the prophecies mentioned in God's Word that have come to pass? How accurate has God been with His Words? What confidence then do you have of Jesus Christ returning?
6. With all the evidence in history pointing to the fact that the Bible is entirely true, why do so many still attack the Word rather than submit to it? Why do you suppose that many people argue that there are "so many" contradictions in the Bible?
7. When you consider the story of a skeptic like Voltaire, what do you learn about our Great God?
8. Josh McDowell and Lee Strobel were mentioned as sincere skeptics who studied to see for themselves if Jesus Christ was really true. Is it okay for someone to have serious questions about God? Is it okay to use our intelligence rather than have just blind faith? What happened to Josh McDowell and Lee Strobel?
9. If indeed the Bible is true, then what keeps so many people from surrendering the Lordship of Jesus Christ?
10. If your life is your greatest witness to the validity of God's Word, then take some time in your group to discuss your own personal transformation by Jesus Christ.