

The Book of God #4

Text : **II Timothy 3: 10-17 ; II Peter 1: 12-20**

S#1.
S#2.

A. Do you believe in God ? Why ? How do we know there is a God ?

1. Just look around you; it's obvious.
 - a. It is irrational to believe that all we see just happened.
 - b. When we see a bridge, a car, or a computer we don't think they just happened.
2. The universe, this planet, our bodies are far more intricate than anything man makes.
 - a. **Rom. 1: 20-22** – For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, **S#3.**
His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **22** Professing to be wise, they became fools,
 - b. **Psa. 14: 1-2** – The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are **S#4.**
corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; there is no one who does good. **2** The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

B. When one observes that God exists, how does he seek after God ?

S#5.

1. If there is a creator God, logic would dictate that He has a will for His creation.
2. How can man learn what the will of his creator is for him ?
3. God wrote a book to tell mankind about Himself and about His plan for them.
 - a. **II Tim. 3: 16** – All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
 - b. **II Pet. 1: 21** – for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

C. However, can we sustain our claim that the bible is the true “Book of God?”

I. Many non-Christian religions claim they have a book that is from God.

S#6.

A. The muslims view several books as coming from God.

S#7.

1. Their most important source of inspired religious authority is the quran.
2. The quran endorses other writings as coming from God.
 - a. Tawrat
 - b. Zabur
 - c. Injil

B. The Hindu religion holds two classes of religious books as sacred :

1. Sruti (that which is revealed) philosophical and ritualistic
four vedas : Upanishadas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Bhagvadvegita
2. Smriti (that which is remembered) Moral and civil laws
Manu Smriti, 18 Puranans, Ramayana, Mahabharata

C. The Mormons claim they have three books that come from God.

1. The Book of Mormon
2. Doctrines and Covenants
3. Pearl of Great price (*These 3 on par with the bible.*)

D. The Buddhists have holy books called Sutras

1. The Tipitaka or Pali Cannon “*The Word of Buddha*” (*40 volumes in English*)
2. Mahayana Sutras
3. Tibetan Book of the Dead

E. Christian Science “Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures” Mary Baker Eddy**F. Sikhism** .. The Guru Granth Sahib (*Believed to be “the living word of God”*)**G. Taoism** ... the Tao-te Ching and the Chuang-tzu.**H. This list could be extended to other religions and the books they hold sacred.**

1. They view their religious writings as sacred as Christians hold the bible.
2. What grounds do we have to say the bible is superior to these other “holy” books?

S#8.

II. The bible is a book like no other in the way it came into being and in its message.**A. The bible is an amazing book in the way it was written.**

S#9.

1. Written over a 1500 span but has a cohesive message.
2. Written by 40+ men from varying cultures in different eras most of whom did not know other authors, yet it maintained a cohesive message.

B. Most of the human writers were not educated people, but their writing have been able to challenge and to confound scholars for generations.

1. **Amos 7: 14** – Then Amos replied to Amaziah, "I am not a prophet, nor am I the son of a prophet; for I am a herdsman and a grower of sycamore figs. S#10.
2. **Neh. 1: 11** – ... make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man." Now I was the cupbearer to the king.

3. **Matt. 4: 18-22** ... Peter, Andrew, James and John were fishermen.
4. The bible writers were everyday people writing for everyday people.

C. Contemporary writes recognized each other's writings as being from God.

1. Peter recognized Paul as writing scripture.

II Pet. 3: 15-16 – ...; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the **S#11.**
wisdom given him, wrote to you, **16** as also in all his letters,
 speaking in them of these things, in which are some things
 hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as
they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

2. Paul recognized Luke's writings quoting them as being scripture.

a. **I Tim. 5: 17-18** – The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of **S#12.**
 double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and
 teaching. **18** For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle the ox
while he is threshing," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

- b. This is citation of two different passages.

- 1) **Deut. 25: 4** – "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing,"

- 2) **Luke 10: 7** – "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

- c. Luke was a traveling companion of Paul from **Acts 16: 8-10** ... "we."

- 1) The Gospel According to Luke was newly written (56-62) I Tim = 64-65

- 2) Paul knew the intimate details of Luke's life (snored ?) but quoted as scripture

D. No man would write a book with the bible's message.

S#13.

1. **Rom. 3: 10, 23** ... Mankind is totally wicked and condemned to Hell.
2. Even the heroes have glaring sins.
 - a. The first family was weak and easily led astray.
 - b. Noah was the most righteous man on earth, but got drunk after being saved.
 - c. Abraham is the father of the faithful and friend of God, but he was a chronic liar.
 - d. Moses was a murder and had a temper that kept him out of the Promised Land.
 - e. David was a man after God's own heart, but he was a murderous adulterer.
3. God is presented as totally beyond human comprehension.
 - a. Infinite in all His attributes ... power, knowledge, love, justice
 - b. God is eternal, He exists outside the realm of time.
4. No mighty acts are required for man to be made right with God ... **repent & believe**

S#14.

E. More effort has been made to destroy the bible than any other writing, but it ...

III. Only the bible contains an abundance of verifiably fulfilled prophecies. S#15.

A. There are approximately 1,239 prophecies in the O.T. and 578 in the N.T.

1. 400 prophecies about Jesus
2. 8,352 verses are prophecy (8,352 divided by 31,124 = 26.8% prophecy)
3. Though some have yet to be fulfilled, not one prophecy has been wrong.

B. One Example, Jeremiah's prophecy of 70 yrs of captivity was fulfilled two ways.

1. History records that the captivity actually lasted 70 yrs.

Jer. 25:11-12 – This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these **S#16.**
nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 12 'Then it will be
 when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon
 and that nation,' declares the Lord, 'for their iniquity, and the land of
 the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation.

2. The fulfilment came just as prophesied. **S#17.**

- a. 606 BC ... Nebuchadnezzar invaded Israel and carried off captives. (*Incl. Dan*)
- b. 597 BC .. Nebuchadnezzar invaded & deported more captives. (*Incl. Kg Jeconiah*)
- c. 586 BC .. Nebuchadnezzar II destroyed Jerusalem and the temple.
- d. 50 years later Babylon fell and Cyrus established Medo-Persian empire at which time he allowed all captives to go home.
- e. 536 BC .. Zerubbabel led the first group of Jews back home, numbering 42,360,

3. From the destruction of the temple to its being rebuilt was 70 years.

- a. 586 BC .. Nebuchadnezzar II destroyed Jerusalem and the temple.
- b. 536 BC .. Zerubbabel led the first group of Jews back home, numbering 42,360,
- c. 16 years later ,, Haggai and Zechariah began rebuilding the temple
- d. 516 BC ... (Ezra 6:14-15) The rebuilding of the temple was completed.

S#18.

IV. Some scientific facts are revealed in scripture before they were commonly known.

A. Man's body contains the same 13 elements as the earth in the same proportions.

Psa. 103 : 14 – For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust.

B. The earth is round. **S#19.**

1. **Isa. 40: 22** – It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,
2. There were some who accepted this description of earth, but most thought it flat.

C. The earth is suspended in space.

1. **Job 26:7** – He stretches out the north over empty space
And hangs the earth on nothing.
2. Many believed the flat earth rested on the back of a giant turtle.
3. The Greeks believed the earth rested on the shoulders of their god Atlas.

D. The atmosphere has weight.**S#20.**

1. **Job. 28: 25** – When He imparted weight to the wind
And meted out the waters by measure,
2. The common belief was that air was just the absence of matter.
3. In 1613 Galileo discovered and published that air has weight.

E. The hydrological cycle is often referenced in the Old Testament.**S#21.**

1. Leonardo Da Vinci began to learn about the water cycle in the late 1400s
2. Bernard Palissy is credited for discovering it in 1508
3. The psalmist understood the water cycle :
Psa. 135: 7 – He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth;
Who makes lightnings for the rain,
4. Solomon understood that the water from the sea returned to the mountains.
a. **Eccl. 1: 7** – All the rivers flow into the sea, Yet the sea is not full.
To the place where the rivers flow, There they flow again.

- b. **Eccl.11: 3** – If the clouds are full, they pour out rain upon the earth;

5. The O.T. prophets understood the water cycle.

S#22.

- a. **Isa. 55: 10** – For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth

- b. **Amos 9: 6** – The One who builds His upper chambers in the heavens
and has founded His vaulted dome over the earth,
He who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out
on the face of the earth, The Lord is His name.

S#23.**F. The bible revealed the trade routes that we still use today.****S#24.**

1. In 1861 while sick retired naval officer, Matthew Maury's daughter read Psalm 8:8 to him and he vowed to find those paths in the sea,
a. Others had found a current here and there but Maury charted to trade routes.
b. He found both the ocean currents and the "circular winds" we call the trade winds.
2. **Psa. 8: 8** – The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea,
Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

S#25.

3. **Ecc. 1: 6** – Blowing toward the south, Then turning toward the north, The wind continues swirling along; And on its circular courses the wind returns.

CONCLUSION :

S#26

- A. The very foundations of the Christian religion depend upon our scriptures.**
1. It is our guide to all they we believe and practice.
 2. It is our source of knowledge about God.
 3. It is our guide to God's salvation.
- B. If the bible is not completely true and without error Christianity cannot stand.**
- C. Many other writings claim to be from God, but the bible alone is true.** **S#27.**
1. It was produced like no other book in history.
 2. It is a book with a unique message which is obviously not from man.
 3. It contains the account of many fulfilled prophecies.
 4. It reveals knowledge that was beyond the scope of the science of the time.
- D. We can trust the bible as inspired revelation from God.**
- E. Acknowledging that the bible is from God, we must learn and apply its contents.** **S#28.**

INVITATION :

S#29. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**II Timothy 3: 10-17**

10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, **11** persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! **12** Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. **13** But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. **14** You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, **15** and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

II Peter 1: 12-21

12 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. **13** I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, **14** knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. **15** And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. **17** For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased" — **18** and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. **20** But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, **21** for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.