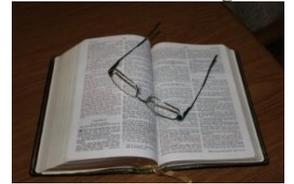


Can We Trust the Good News of the Bible?

We have grown accustomed to hearing the term fake news. Fake news often refers to intentional misinformation to sway public opinion, or at least the accusation of misinformation or sensationalism. Before the computer age, the old adage was, “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.” A sales pitch with an unbelievable offer makes us suspect something isn’t right or there is a “catch” to it. The bottom line is that we tend to believe what we want to be true regardless of the facts.

So what about the Bible? Can we trust its authenticity?

God’s Word is revealed to us through the Bible. It includes things man could not have known. An example of this is in the creation story. If man was created on the sixth day, how did we know what happened on the first through the fifth days? That information had to come from God. God inspired the human authors of the Bible, speaking to them in their own language. There are many examples of how God has communicated with us. Here are a few:



- God spoke to Noah directly with instructions to build an Ark.
- He also spoke directly to young Samuel in the temple. It took several times for young Samuel to realize it was not the priest Eli, whom Samuel lived with, but God speaking directly to Samuel.
- God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary that she was to give birth to the Messiah.
- An angel appeared to Joseph, telling him the baby was the Son of God, and to name him Jesus.
- Knowing Herod’s intentions, God told the wise men in a dream not to return to Herod, after finding the baby Jesus.
- The Bible tells us often that the Angel of the Lord communicated divine truths in Old Testament times.

Each time God spoke it was for a reason, revealing important information that only God knew. *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law (Deuteronomy 30:29).*

The Bible is full of happenings and events that are well beyond human capabilities. Humans can’t bring the dead back to life, divide the Red Sea as an escape route, or feed the masses with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Yet, with God anything is possible. Jesus Himself is quoted as saying: *With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26).*

The Christian Bible consists of 66 books, authored by 40 different people, and written over thousands of years of time. Each author was inspired by God, yet they conveyed a unified message from God. *“As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD. “My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children and on the lips of their descendants—from this time on and forever,” says the LORD (Isaiah 59:21).*

Another aspect of the collection of books included in the Bible is that New Testament events fulfill Old Testament prophecies. It is a reassurance to us that whatever God says is going to happen, does. The message to us is that we can trust God’s promises.

There are many translations of the Bible. Each translation is not specifically “to make a new translation, but to make a good one better.” In my view, the translations are intended to make God’s Word more understandable to various cultures, in their own language.

We are enamored by the quest to prove things factually. There is substantial manuscript support for the New Testament, more than for any other body of ancient literature. Over five thousand Greek, eight thousand Latin, and many more manuscripts in other languages attest the integrity of the New Testament.

Archeologists have confirmed many biblical truths.

- The discovery of the Rosetta Stone was key to deciphering ancient Egyptian writings dating back to 204-180 BC.
- The Dead Sea Scrolls (discovered in 1947) consist of over 800 fragments of Hebrew writings. It shows very little difference between ancient writings, thousands of years old, and Hebrew texts still in use today.
- Archeological digs have uncovered artifacts and settlements described in the Bible.
- Video devotions and visits to the Holy Lands allow us to see where everything happened, and visualize the context of biblical times.



Rosetta Stone

Mankind’s tendency to doubt has put science and the Bible seemingly at odds. While science is often changing and disproving theories, the Bible remains unchanged. Science doesn’t create new life but helps explain how masterful God’s creation is. And, only the “hand of God” could orchestrate the events with such perfect timing.



Dead Sea Scrolls

Science and math provide an interesting explanation of the

Christmas Star that guided shepherds and the Magi to the birthplace of Jesus. A recent Christmas sermon at our church provided insight about the “Star of Wonder” we sing about on Christmas Eve. Johannes Kepler, an astronomer in the 1600’s, developed the Law of Planetary Motion, which is still used by NASA and other scientists today. It calculates what the night sky looked like at any particular day in time. Kepler concluded that the never-seen-before bright light was likely the conjunction of Saturn, Venus and Regulus. Regulus is a “quadruple star,” which actually is four stars coming together to appear as one. A confluence of Regulus, Saturn and Venus would have been the greatest celestial light anyone had ever seen. The Bible tells us: *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place (Psalm 8:3)*. In his sermon, Pastor Elliott Lutz said that when God designed and created the heavens and the earth, even before He created humans, He orchestrated that this great light would appear on the very night Jesus was born. That, coupled with prophecies that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem, ties it all together. It is an example of God’s perfect timing, something that we can trust in our own lives. Pretty amazing stuff!

With all of this supporting information we can trust that the Bible is the authentic Word of God, and is true. God’s claims were authenticated, in word and deed, by the fulfillment of every prophesy in the Bible. We can conclude in our own lives that God’s timing and plan for our life is perfect. As a result, we can accept and trust the Good News that Jesus Christ came to earth to die for our sins and to give us the hope for eternal life. Jesus said, *The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor (Luke 4:18)*. Our role is to believe in Him.

Concepts in this devotion come from an explanatory section of the New Open Bible study edition, King James Version, our church’s December 27th sermon and supporting internet research.