

The Bible

- **Defined**

- (uppercase) **The collection of sacred writings of the Christian religion, comprising of the Old and New Testaments**
- (lowercase) **Any book, reference work, periodical, etc., accepted as authoritative, informational, or reliable**
- **Referred to in Greek as “*Ta biblia ta hagia*” (the holy books) as early as 223 AD**
- **Ultimately referred to in Latin as “*biblia sacra*” in the middle ages – “The Holy Book, or Bible”**

**Hypocritically
leaves out
“inspired” books?**

**Spiritually accurate
but not historically
accurate?**

The Bible

**Cannot or should
not be read or
applied literally?**

**Contains numerous
errors and
contradictions?**

The Bible

- **Given that these accusations are always becoming more accepted by society:**
 - **How can we continue to believe in the legitimacy of the Bible?**
 - **How do we address the claims that question the integrity of the Bible?**

The Bible

- **How can we trust in the legitimacy of the Bible?**
 - **Do we believe in God and His power?**
 - **Do we believe in the Bible as God's word?**
 - **If yes, we must believe that God, in His power, has the ability to preserve His word as He sees fit.**
 - **We also must believe that God has given us assurance in His word that we can trust that what He has written...**

The Bible

- **How can we trust in the legitimacy of the Bible?**
 - **All Scripture is given by God –
II Tim. 3:16-17; I Thess. 2:13**
 - **In addition to being inspired of God, these writers were, or had conferred with, eye witnesses that testified of the truthfulness of all that was written –
Jn. 1:1-10; 20:30-31; 21:24-25; Acts 4:18-22; II Pet. 1:16; I Jn. 1:1-4**

The Bible

- **How can we trust in the legitimacy of the Bible?**
 - **These men delivered God's word in unadulterated form and it was obeyed – I Cor. 11:2; 15:3; Gal. 1:6-12; Jude 3**
 - **We are given assurances that we can have certainty concerning the things we believe – Luke 1:1-4; II Tim. 3:14; I Jn. 5:13, 20**

The Bible

- **We can, and must, believe in the legitimacy and integrity of the Bible as the word of God...**
 - **If the Bible is not what it claims to be, then we have no real way of knowing how to serve Him – II Tim. 1:8-13**
 - **How do we address the claims that question the integrity of the Bible?**

**Hypocritically
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The Bible

The Bible – Addressing the Opposition

- Name an example...**
- “People may still be heard to say, 'After all, these Apocryphal Gospels and Acts, as you call them, are just as interesting as the old ones. It was only by accident or caprice that they were not put into the New Testament'. The best answer (...) has always been, and is now, to produce the writings and let them tell their own story. It will very quickly be seen that there is no question of anyone's having excluded them from the New Testament: they have done that for themselves.”**
- M.R. James (1862-1936 British scholar)**

**Spiritually accurate
but not historically
accurate?**

The Bible

The Bible – Addressing the Opposition

- **Spiritually but not historically accurate?**
Name an example...
- **Criterion of independent attestation** - the more sources that mention an event, the more likely it is to be historically accurate. Just because an event or saying is found only in one source, that alone is not evidence that it is historically inaccurate.
- **Criterion of dissimilarity** - the more a witness or source makes claims counter to their vested interests, the more that testimony is likely to be true
- **Criterion of contextual credibility** – sayings, deeds, experiences must fit within the context of the era

The Bible – Addressing the Opposition

- **Spiritually but not historically accurate?**
 - **Name an example! To name a few:**
 - **No grapes in Egypt? (Gen. 40) Herodotus says otherwise...**
 - **The Hittites – found that they had an empire that rivaled Egypt and Assyria**
 - **No King Sargon of Assyria? (Is. 20:1)**
 - **The Flood? Babylonian flood tablets, archeology of cities**
 - **Proposed dating errors, such as AI and Jericho, suggested that the cities did not exist; now archaeology has proven they did exist**

The Bible – Addressing the Opposition

- **Spiritually but not historically accurate?**
 - **Name an example! To name a few:**
 - **No writing in Moses' time? (c. 1400 BC) Proven that there was writing in Moses' time**
 - **Sodom and Gomorrah sites likely found to the south of the Dead Sea**
 - **Even outside historical sources confirm cities conquered, kings defeated, events occurred**
 - **Moabite Stone**
 - **Egyptian, Babylonian, Assyrian records**

The Bible

**Cannot or should
not be read or
applied literally?**

The Bible – Addressing the Opposition

- **Cannot or should not be read or applied literally? Prove it...**
- **Poetry** - as in the Psalms
- **Parables** - as in many of the sayings of Jesus
- **Prophecy** - as in Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.
- **Letters** - as in Romans, Philemon
- **Biography** - as in the Gospels.
- **Autobiography/Testimony** - as in the book of Acts where Luke offers testimony in using “we”, “us”
- **Authentic historical facts** - as in I & II Kings, etc.

The Bible – Addressing the Opposition

- **Cannot or should not be read or applied literally? Prove it...**
 - **In the study of any ancient text, you consider the writer's intent, his audience, and the context of his thoughts**
 - **In this way, it can generally be understood what is meant to be historical (Genesis) and what is meant to be symbolic (Revelation); what is meant to be literal (I Tim. 2:12) and what is meant to be figurative (I Cor. 1:12-13, 4:6-7)**

The Bible

**Contains numerous
errors and
contradictions?**

The Bible – Addressing the Opposition

- **Contains numerous errors and contradictions?**
 - Name one...
 - A “contradiction” is defined as “*a statement or proposition that denies, or is opposite to, another*”
 - The harmony of the Gospels
 - Does the addition or subtraction of a detail constitute a “contradiction”?
 - Jesus’ two genealogies – Matt. 1, Lk. 3
 - Why can’t they both be right?

The Bible – Addressing the Opposition

- **Contains numerous errors and contradictions? Seriously...name one...**
 - **Despite being written by possibly 40 different authors, over a span of about 1500 years, there is not a single contradiction.**
 - **There are perceived “discrepancies” that, when studied, can be explained or given plausible and logical explanations.**
 - **Never an outright opposing statement made.**

The Bible – Addressing the Opposition

- **The originals have been copied so many times that they have lost their original meaning? Prove it...**
 - **Out of almost 25,000 fragments and copies, 97% of the differences between copies is either grammatical or accidental.**
 - **Of the remaining 3%, none of the differences between manuscript copies changes the meaning of the passages in question.**
 - **Compare this to other ancient literature...**

**We should have confidence in the Bible
that God continues to preserve through
His power.**

The Bible

**We should be able and willing to
provide a response to those who
question the legitimacy of the Gospel.**