

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

WHY WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

SELECTED SCRIPTURES

OCTOBER 6TH , 2021



1. The Reason for the Bible

2. The Arguments for the Bible

3. The Response to the Bible

I. THE REASONS FOR THE BIBLE

- A. The Denial of Absolute Truth
- B. The Attacks Against the Bible
- C. The Uniqueness of the Bible
 - 1. Production
 - 2. Preservation
 - 3. Proclamation
 - 4. Product

I. THE REASONS FOR THE BIBLE

- A. The Denial of Absolute Truth
- B. The Attacks Against the Bible
- C. The Uniqueness of the Bible
- D. The Utterances of the Bible

"The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

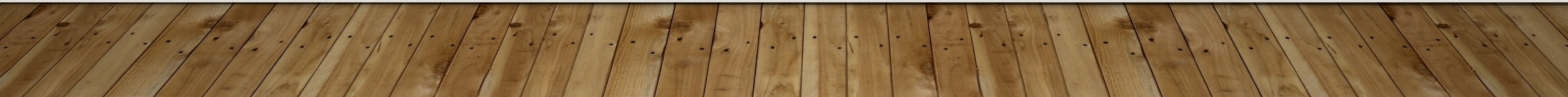
It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character.

Here paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand object; our good is its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully.

It is given you in life and will be opened in the judgment and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents."

- From the *"Introduction to the Bible"* in the Gideon's Bible



II. THE ARGUMENTS FOR THE BIBLE

A. The Internal Attestation

B. The External Attestation

C. The Spirit's Authentication

II. THE ARGUMENTS FOR THE BIBLE

A. The Internal Attestation

I. The Bible's claims about itself – OT

- **The Bible claims to be the very words of God**

- 1900x - 'message from God'
- 3800x – 'God said' or 'thus says the Lord'

- **The Process of Inspiration**

- Exodus 4:10-16; 7:1-4
- Deuteronomy 4:2; 13:1-5; 18:18-22; Jeremiah 1:4-10

II. THE ARGUMENTS FOR THE BIBLE

A. The Internal Attestation

1. The Bible's claims about itself – OT

2. The Bible's claims about itself – NT

- The NT writers claimed the OT to be God's word
 - 2 Tim. 3:16
- The NT writers claimed their writing to be God's word
 - Gal. 1:11-12; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Peter 3:15-16
 - 1 Timothy 5:17-18 (Deut. 25:4; Luke 10:7)

II. THE ARGUMENTS FOR THE BIBLE

A. The Internal Attestation

1. The Bible's claims about itself – OT
2. The Bible's claims about itself – NT
3. Jesus's claims about the Bible
 - Jesus claimed the OT to be the Word of God

II. THE ARGUMENTS FOR THE BIBLE

The Jewish Canon (Tanach)

- **Law (Torah)** - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- **Prophets (Nebiim)** - Joshua, Judges, Samuel (1/2), Kings (1/2), Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, The Minor Prophets (= one book: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)
- **Writings (Chetuvim)** - Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah (= one book), Chronicles (1/2)

II. THE ARGUMENTS FOR THE BIBLE

A. The Internal Attestation

1. The Bible's claims about itself – OT
2. The Bible's claims about itself – NT
3. Jesus's claims about the Bible
 - Jesus claimed the OT to be the Word of God
 - The 3 part division was assumed by Jesus - Luke 24:22
 - The 3 part closed canon was assumed by Jesus - Luke 11:49-51

II. THE ARGUMENTS FOR THE BIBLE

A. The Internal Attestation

1. The Bible's claims about itself – OT
2. The Bible's claims about itself – NT
3. Jesus's claims about the Bible
 - Jesus claimed the OT to be the Word of God
 - Jesus pre-authenticated the NT Writers
 - Jesus chose the 12 Apostles (Luke 6:12-13)
 - Jesus pre-authenticated the NT Writers (John 14:25-26; 16:12-15; 17:6-8)

II. THE ARGUMENTS FOR THE BIBLE

A. The Internal Attestation

B. The External Attestation

- I. Impact / Influence in the World
2. Manuscript Evidence (approx. 5851)
 - Papyrus – 140
 - Parchments (animal skins/hides)
 - Uncials/Majuscules – 322
 - Miniscules – 2936
 - Lectionaries – 2453

II. THE ARGUMENTS FOR THE BIBLE

A. The Internal Attestation

B. The External Attestation

1. Impact / Influence in the World
2. Manuscript Evidence (approx. 585 I)
3. Early Church Fathers
4. Historical / Archaeological Evidence

II. THE ARGUMENTS FOR THE BIBLE

A. The Internal Attestation

B. The External Attestation

C. The Spirit's Authentication

1. I Cor. 2:13-14; 2 Cor. 4:4-6

2. John 10:27

III. THE RESPONSE TO THE BIBLE

- A. Make sure you are PART of a Church that is committed to teaching the Word of God
- B. Make sure you are IN the Word of God for your own spiritual growth
- C. Make sure you are using the Word of God to PROCLAIM the Gospel of God

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some other arguments (that you have come across) against the Bible and how have/would you respond to them?
2. How do you study the Bible?