

WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

Fundamentals of the Faith

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LESSON #4 — REASONS FOR BELIEVING THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED? (PART 2)

Now let's look at a third reason for believing the Bible is the Word of God. And that is, its impartiality. When we look at books by human authors, they usually either build up the good of the hero, or they emphasize the evil of the villain, the one who is the bad person in the story. They seldom include both. Their purpose is usually to do one or the other. But contrast that with the Bible. Take for example, several characters. Noah, God says that He was a preacher of righteousness, but yet it was shown that he was drunk. He was a human being, he made a mistake. he sinned against God. David. David is described as a man after God's own heart. And yet David committed adultery and participated in the murder of Bathsheba's husband. Abraham: what a man of great faith, who went out on faith and went to a land; He didn't know where he was going, left his family behind. And yet the Bible also records the fact that he lied to Pharaoh. And then there's Peter, what great energy and enthusiasm and faith in the Lord. And yet Peter tragically denied the Lord three times, as Jesus predicted he would. So what do we conclude? The Bible's author: was it human or divine? We conclude that it was divine. God tells all the truth, the good about the heroes and their evil, the sins that they committed. He's impartial. He recorded the information as it actually occurred.

A fourth reason for believing that the Bible is the Word of God is its indestructibility. That is it cannot be destroyed. Despite attempts to destroy it through the years. In Matthew chapter 24, verse 35, our memory verse for next class, Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Word will not pass away." In other words, before the world is destroyed, even until the world is destroyed, and after it is destroyed, God's word will not be destroyed. It is indestructible.

Think about some attempts to destroy the Bible through history. We can go to the Old Testament to the book of Jeremiah, in the 36th chapter. There we read about King Jehoiakim, who was the king of Judah, living during the time of Jeremiah. And in verses 22 and following of that chapter, Jehoiakim took his pen knife, and he cut the scroll of God, cut it up. And he took that scroll containing the words of God, and threw it into the fire, assuming that he had destroyed the Word of God, and he didn't have to worry about it anymore. But what do we learn? In verse 32, we learned that God had Jeremiah, rewrite those words, and add more words to it, warnings and rebukes against people like Jehoiackim, who would try to tamper with and destroy the Word of God. He wasn't successful; nobody else has been either.

A second example, is the group known as the Roman Catholic Church. Now, before we make these comments we want to make sure that you understand that we are not approaching this from the standpoint of hatred, or arrogance, or our an attempt to be unkind in any way. We love all people. We want people to be happy in this life, and spend eternity in heaven. But God commands that we speak the truth, and to do that in a spirit of love for him and people (Ephesians 4:15). And that's what we're going to do. We're going to speak the truth, recording the facts of history. That's all we're going to do.

In 1184, Pope Lucius III, excommunicated the Waldenses. That is, he threw them out of the church, if you will. Cast them out of the church. Well, why did he do that? What horrible crime had they committed? They said that the Bible was central to their worship. In other words, they wanted to worship according to the Bible, not according to the doctrines and commandments of men. But the Catholic Church excommunicated them because of that attitude. That's an attempt to harm the influence of the Bible. In 1229, a group of high Roman Catholic officials in Toulouse, France, forbade the people to have the scriptures. They said they couldn't have the scriptures. That's from the religious group that claims to have given us the Bible. That's an attempt to destroy the influence of the Bible. During the Reformation period, in the 15 and 1600s, John Haas is quoted as saying, "The Bible, not the church, is the Christian sole authority." So he was saying, "Don't go to the church to find out what your authority is or isn't. You go to the Bible, to the Word of God." That's a great attitude. That's the kind of attitude that God is pleased with and blesses. His Bibles and books were burned by the Roman Catholic Church. That didn't stop John Huss. He was a courageous fellow who loved the Lord and loved the Bible as His word. Then, those Catholic officials buried him alive. That's an attempt to hurt, destroy the Bible, and its influence upon men.

Then one other concerning the Roman Catholic Church, and that this is entitled, "The Cardinals Advice." "The Cardinals advice." Here's what some religious leaders in the Roman Catholic Church said to one of the Pope's. Quote, "Of all the counseling we can possibly give to your holiness, we reserve the most important of it to the last. We must hold our eyes well open and intervene with all of our power in the affairs we have to consider. The reading of the Gospel must be permitted as little as possible." Notice that: "the reading of the Gospel must be permitted as little as possible, especially in the modern languages. And in the countries under your authority. The very little that is read generally, at the mass should be enough. The very little that is read at the mass should be enough. And it should be prohibited for anyone to read more." In other words, people should be forbidden to read any more than is read at the mass. "As long as the people are content with that small part, our interests will prosper." Notice that: here's a religious group who believed that people had to be deprived of the Bible for their interests to prosper. But, they went on to say, "But from the moment that the people desire to read more, our interests will begin to suffer. Here is the book that more than any other provoked rebellions against us, storms that have been risky in bringing us loss. In fact, if anyone reads accurately the teaching of the Bible, and compares what occurs in our churches, he will soon find out the contradictions." Can you imagine such a statement?" If the people are allowed to read the Bible, and compare what God said in the Bible with what the Roman Catholic Church was doing, then and today, they'll find out the contradictions. "And we'll see that our teaching is far removed from that of the Bible, and more often is in opposition to it. If the people realize this, they will provoke us without rest, until all become unveiled, and then we will become the object of ridicule, and universal hate. It is necessary that the Bible be taken away and snatched from the hands of the people. However, with much wisdom, in order to not provoke trouble."

There's a remarkable statement. And that statement was made by the Cardinals, the royal, or high Roman Catholic officials, to Pope Julius of Rome, in 1550. And it's found in the National Bibliothèque, or the National Library in Paris, France. The volume is reserve number

22719, pages 101 and 102. This is not some story made up by those who are hostile to this particular religious group. This is a fact of history. Those people determined to destroy the Bible, and the influence the Bible had upon the people. But they weren't successful, just as no others have ever been successful in that effort.

Another example: Voltaire, who was a famous French writer and philosopher who lived from 1694 to 1778. Voltaire said, "In 100 years, there won't be one Bible left." That's a remarkable statement. Sounds like he thought that his philosophy, his thinking, was going to replace that of God's and his word. But you know what happened? 200 years later, his work sold in Paris for 11 cents. And the British government paid \$500,000 for a New Testament manuscript. And after Voltaire's death, his printing press, which he used to print his material, guess what it was used to print. Your right: Bibles. And his house was used to store Bibles by the Geneva Bible Society. Voltaire was wrong. He was tragically wrong. He was wrong in that he tried to destroy the Bible and its influence upon the lives of men.

All attempts have failed, we still have this wonderful volume, the word of God, despite the attempts by men to destroy it. that tells us that God is behind it. He is protecting it. There is no book in the history of man that has more conclusive manuscript and other evidence than the Bible. There's a reason for that. It's God's word, and he's protected it. And we can thank him for that. So that's another reason for knowing the Bible is the Word of God.

A fifth reason is, there is a higher code of conduct. There is a higher standard of living given to us in the Bible by God. Let me just give you a few examples. Jesus said in Matthew 5, verse 44, "Love your enemies." Now, does that sound like the advice of men? Is that what men say, "To love your enemies." He said, "Bless those who persecute you. Pray for those who despitefully use you." That's not men's wisdom speaking. That's God. This is of a higher plane than the advice that men give.

In Matthew 16, verse 24, Jesus said, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Man says, "You need to satisfy your desires, your lusts. Whatever you want, you need to do, and certainly don't take up a cross." A cross is an instrument of punishment of suffering, of humiliation. But Jesus said that. And he said, "Follow me." Where did he go? He went to that cross, and He died that death for you. And for me. That's not the advice of man. That's God speaking through his son Jesus.

The apostle Paul said in Colossians, chapter 3, verse 1 and 2, "If you are risen with Christ, seek those things which are above where Christ sits at the right hand of the Father. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Is that what man says? You seek the spiritual things, heavenly things, do what God says. That's not what man says. Man says, "Do what you want to do. Do what makes you happy." This is obviously advice and levels of living and conduct that comes from God, not from man. James said in James 1, verse 2, "Count it all joy, my beloved brethren, when you fall into manifold trials." Man doesn't tell us to rejoice in the trials that we experience in this life. But God does. All of these things, and other statements, show us that there is a higher level of conduct, of ethics of behavior in the Bible.

The Bible came from God. Men say, "If it feels good, do it." Men say, "Take care of yourself, don't worry about anybody else." They say, "Grab all of the physical pleasure you can because you only live life once." Those are the advice of men. But the Bible didn't come from men. The Bible came from God. It is the word of God, and it prescribes a higher code of living.

Those are just five of the reasons that we have for believing that the Bible is the Word of God. There are many more. Its historical accuracy. Its scientific accuracy, and prediction of things that scientists or humans didn't know, hundreds of years before it was known by men. Its influence upon people throughout the ages. Many great men have recognized that the Bible was a tremendously important influence in their life, and their leaders from different countries who have testified to that. Many other reasons. But these are sufficient for us to know this Bible is from God. It's his word. Let's briefly go summarize those reasons that we've seen and studied here for believing the Bible is the Word of God.

First of all, it's amazing unity. Secondly, its fulfillment of prophecy. Third, its impartiality. Fourth, it cannot be destroyed despite the attempts by men to do that. And fifth, its higher code of conduct of, of standard of living, of ethics of morality.