

Come and See Weekend – Why Believe in the Bible? Part 2

Speaker: Dr. Henry Schorr

Rarely would anyone travel through unknown terrain without a map, compass, or other guide. Yet many will undertake the journey of life without a moral compass or standard of living. Moreover, today, skepticism leads to people not putting their confidence in anything. This skepticism is alive and well where the Bible is concerned. Is it from God? Is it trustworthy? Is it a valid life guide for today?

Christians believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God and trust Him. Jesus regularly quoted the Old Testament, endorsing it as the authoritative Word of God. As well, He also made provision for the New Testament through the appointment and empowerment of His apostles for this work (2 Peter 3:2). Two other testimonies validate the reliability of the Bible – that of Time and Archaeology.

The Testimony of Time.

The Bible spans 1600 years, includes some 40 generations, and covers 3 continents in 3 different languages by 40 different authors from every walk of life – from servants to kings, fishermen to doctors, and poets to military generals – composing a book with a unified theme and internal consistency. The Bible is the most published and translated book in history and has also been the most despised, disputed, dissected, and debated book in history. Even today in some countries it is illegal to have a Bible. Yet after all these centuries of scrutiny, the Bible has not been disproven. It is truly God-inspired; the truth will always remain the truth (Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 24:35).

The Testimony of Archaeology.

“No archaeological discovery has ever controverted (or contradicted) a single properly understood Biblical reference.” – Dr Nelson Glueck.

The Bible is filled with many details that are unrelated to its central message. In the 18th and 19th Centuries, skeptics criticized the Bible for containing a litany of so-called facts not recorded in secular history and concluded that it was based on myths and legends. However, as archaeological work continued, many things that had been questioned have since been verified as factual. In fact, in some cases where the secular historical record and the Bible disagreed, discoveries have consistently proven the Biblical account to be accurate. Some examples of archaeology supporting the Bible include the discovery of the existence of the Hittites (referred to in 41 Old Testament chapters), the city of Ur, Sodom and Gomorrah. It confirmed the question of the Biblical reference to Belshazzar as the last king of Babylon and the existence of King David, the Pool of Bethesda and contradicted the claim by the Jesus Seminar scholars who claimed that the idea that Jesus was God was a later invention. Sir William Ramsay, a noted archaeologist and atheist, sought to disprove the accuracy of the Book of Acts. After 25 years he concluded that Luke’s Gospel was exact down to the minute details. His investigation resulted in his becoming a follower of Jesus Christ.

It is one thing to know the truth, to see the evidence, and another to embrace it. We do this today even knowing that smoking is bad for us and that exercise is beneficial. And we do it with Jesus and His Word. The challenge before us is to intentionally seek the truth. Taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8). Seek Him with your questions and your research. Face those things that are keeping you from trusting Him, such as pride, hurt or wanting to be in control, and choose to follow (taste) Him and know what it means to daily walk with Him as a friend. What will you do with Jesus and His Word, the Bible?

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Have you ever hiked or travelled to unknown destinations without a map, compass, or GPS? What happened? How did your trip turn out?
2. What objections did you have to overcome before you concluded that the Bible is trustworthy and reliable? What questions do you still have?

UP – PURSUE GOD

3. Read Isaiah 40:8 and Matthew 24:35. How do these and other scriptures support the fact that the Bible has persevered over time despite attempts to discredit it? What other reasons can you give for why Scriptures have endured?
4. Read Luke 19:38-40. Jesus said that if people quit praising God, the stones would cry out. How have the “stones” of archaeology given evidence to the truth of the Bible? If anyone has been to Israel, share your experience with respect to the archaeology. What “stone” is fundamental to your belief in the Scriptures?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. From the message, consider the Testimony of Time and Archaeology. In what ways do they impact your faith in Jesus Christ?
6. If someone tried to disprove the Bible to you, how would you answer? See also 1 Peter 3:15-17. What deeper questions might lie below the surface of the conversation? For you or the other person?

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

If you have doubts about the Bible, seek the truth. What issues might keep you from experiencing and trusting God fully? Bring your questions to God and research them prayerfully using trusted resources.

THE WORD (NIV)

2 Peter 3:2

I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Saviour through your apostles.

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away

Luke 19:37-40

³⁸ “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

⁴⁰ “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

This week’s writers: Gene and Karen Gibbs, Sandi Somers and Jorel Quemuel