

Why Worldview Matters

What About the Bible?

2nd Timothy 3:16-17

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Introduction:

- Do you ever wonder why people get so mad at the principles of Christianity?
- Consider a few things that were introduced to the world because of the influence of Jesus:
 - *Hospitals* –
 - *Medical Advances* –
 - *Universities* –
 - *Literacy and Education* –
 - *Representative Government* –
 - *Separation of Political Powers and Civil Liberties* –
 - *Abolition of Slavery* –
 - *Discovery of the New World* –
 - *Benevolence and Charity* –
 - *Higher Standards of Justice* –
 - *Elevation of the Common Man* –
 - *Learning World Languages* –
 - *Greater Development of the Arts and Music* –
 - *Lives and Countries Changed* –
 - *Changed Souls* –
- All these things have been done in the Name of Christianity.
- **Acts 4:25-26**
- **Matthew 16:18**
- Many “Christians” say they do not believe that the Bible is completely true.
- You and I do not have to prove the Bible ... we believe it already ... it is their job to disprove it.
- Let’s look at some facts about the Bible:

1. **Fact One – The Bible’s Textual Consistency:**

- a. The Wicked Bible – 1631
- b. The Bible is the only single book in history that was:
 1. Written over a 1500-year time span.
 2. Written by more than 40 people
 3. Written in different places
 4. Written at different times
 5. Written in different moods

6. Written in three continents
7. Written in three languages
8. Written in different literary styles
- c. Yet, the Bible is 100% consistent with its message from the words ... “*In the beginning*” to “Come, Lord Jesus Come” in Revelation.
- d. How is this possible? – There is only ONE author, God Himself.
- e. **2nd Timothy 3:16-17**
- f. The Bible is the most controversial book, yet it is the most proven book in the world ever.
- g. The Bible is the most despised book, yet it is the most read book in the world ever.
- h. The Five Step of Literary Critique:
 1. Read the literary piece you plan on critiquing.
 2. Examine the components of the literature.
 3. Form your criticism taking all components into consideration.
 4. Summarize your interpretation into a concise thesis statement.
 5. Prove your interpretation.
- i. There is no other Book of Antiquity like the Bible:
 1. Homer’s Iliad – 800 B.C. Earliest Copy, 400 B.C. – 400 years after the original – 643 in the world today.
 2. Plato’s Republic – 400 B.C. Earliest Copy, 900 A.D. – 1,300 years after the original – 9 in the world today.
 3. Ceaser’s Gallic War – 100 B.C. Earliest Copy, 900 A.D. – 1,000 years after the original – 10 in the world today.
 4. New Testament – 50-100 A.D. Earliest Collection of Books, 200 A.D. Complete NT, 325 A.D. – 24,970 in the world today.
- j. **Bruce Metzger** ... “*The work of several ancient authors are preserved to us by the thinnest possible thread of transmission ... In contrast ... the textual critic of the New Testament is embarrassed by the wealth of his material.*”

2. Fact Two – Archeological/Historical Evidence:

- a. **Genesis 1-11** – Often talked about like a fairy tale.
- b. Ebla Tablets – 2500-2250 B.C. Found in 1975-1976. 17,000-18,000 clay tablets that talk about creation by One Almighty God, out of nothing – Ex Nihilo.
 1. The tablets talk about Esau, Michael, Ismael, and David and they speak of God – “*El has heard me.*”
- c. Tower of Babel - Archeology has revealed a monument that is 5 feet across and ten feet high that tells of Ur-Nammu – King of Ur from about 2044 B.C. to 2007 B.C. building a great Tower for worship to the moon god, Nanna.
 1. Another panel shows the gods throwing the men down scattering them and making their speech strange.
 2. **Genesis 11:8-9**

- d. In New Testament Times:
 1. Tacitus (Roman Historian) wrote about Nero blaming Christians for the burning of Rome.
 2. *“Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated called Christians, who get their name from Christus who suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hand of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate...”*
 3. Other Roman and Jewish historians who wrote about Jesus: Suetonius, Josephus, Pliny the Younger, Thallus, Lucian, the Emperor Trajan
 4. Six common themes about Jesus by these historians:
 1. *Jesus was a Jewish teacher from Nazareth.*
 2. *Many claimed He performed miracles.*
 3. *The Jewish Leaders rejected Him.*
 4. *He was crucified by Pontius Pilate.*
 5. *Despite his shameful death, his followers said that he was alive, and his following grew beyond Palestine.*
 6. *By the Second Century there were believers of Jesus all over the world, from all walks of life, claiming that He was God.*

3. Fact Three – Perfect Prophetic Predictions Fulfilled:

- a. Eight Prophetic Predictions that God had to do:
 1. Place of Birth – **Micah 5:2** ... Bethlehem ... Rome called for the first census that made Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem.
 2. Time of Birth – **Daniel 9:25** – **Genesis 49:10** ... This would take place in times of terrible trouble for Israel.
 3. Manner of His Birth – **Isaiah 7:14** – Virgin Birth ... I think you realize that only God can do this.
 4. Betrayal – **Psalms 41:9** – A trusted friend who would betray Him.
 5. Manner of Death – **Psalms 22:16** – Which explains being nailed to a tree.
 6. People’s Reaction to Him – **Psalms 22:7-8** – They ridiculed Him, mocked Him and told Him to save Himself.
 7. Piercing His Side – **Zachariah 12:10** – The Roman soldier did this to assure He was dead.
 8. His Burial – **Isaiah 53:9** – He would be buried by the rich.
- b. Mathematician Peter Stoner – Said that for a regular man to fulfill just these eight prophecies would be 1 in 10 to the 17th power.

4. Fact Four – Just Plain Simple Logic:

- a. Dr. Jason Liles – Universal laws work everywhere in the Universe.
- b. These and all other universal laws that apply no matter where we are in the universe must have a common source, and only the Bible gives us that. That source is God and to deny God would be to deny the source of logic.
- c. The greatest evidence as to who authors a Will comes from the Will itself. It would take a great deal of real evidence to prove otherwise.
- d. Old Testament – Several hundred times it says, “Thus says the Lord” ... “These are the Words of Jehovah.”
- e. New Testament – Repeatedly, the Apostles tell us that the message they have comes from God or the Holy Spirit.
- f. **2nd Timothy 3:16-17**
- g. When you consider all that we have spoken of so far – John Wesley says:
 - 1. It cannot be the invention of good men and angels.
 - 2. It cannot be the invention of bad men or demons.
 - 3. There is only one logical answer.

5. Fact Five – Science (Wait, what?):

- a. What do you say when someone says, “*I do not believe the Bible, because it was written by men!*”