

How we got the Bible- Foundations Class

1. What The Bible Says About Itself

- God as the creator of the universe has the inherent right to tell us what to do and how to live.
- God's voice is what makes the Bible authoritative.
- When the Bible be filled with mistakes if it was written down by men who are imperfect?
- What the Bible says about itself.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - Scripture means sacred or special writing
 - God breathed- Image taken from the model of human speech. He breathed out the words out of his mouth. For example, if I said I'm going to give you a piece of my mind the only way I can do that is by telling you or writing it down or speaking to you.
 - The Bible is God's revelation and without him revealing it to us his mind would be a mystery to us. Isaiah 55:8-9
 - More than 3800 times in the OT alone it claims to be God's word.
- How did God get His message to people? Shout or drop golden tablets (Mormon)
 - God spoke His words through the Words of people
 - He did not ask them to take notes. Mindless dictation machines (Koran)
 - Humans used their historical knowledge, geography, and knowledge to write God's word with.
- The writers were aware they were speaking God's message
 - Prophets OT (Mouthpiece)
 - Apostles NT- 1 Cor 2:7; Eph 3:3; 1 Cor 14:37; Rev 1:1; 2 Peter 1:20-21
 - The words of scripture did not come from man's imagination.
 - Men spoke and wrote but their message was being directed by God
- If there is a human element, how can it be trustworthy?
 - This is exactly what the Bible says it is, so this is not scandalous or something that should hurt our faith
 - Jeremiah 1:1; Ezra 8:1; 8
 - God spoke through men and men spoke from God
 - This is challenging but God spoke and as he said it he did not smother the personality or will of the man writing down His words. But on the other hand man spoke from god and used their minds freely but not in such a way as to distort the message God was trying to convey.
- Where is the proof? Let's explore some
- The authors of the NT claimed to be eyewitnesses
- Peter said we have the OT that is confirmed

2. The Unity Of The Bible

- Is using the bible to prove itself circular reasoning? The Bible is not one book but 66. Written by many authors, over years. God's authorship links these books together.
- To assess them as one document it proves one author. Using the circular reasoning argument is self-defeating because it assumes all 66 books are written by the same author.
- There are 4 accounts of the life of Jesus. If we judge them on their own merits as separate historical documents, we can fact check them against one another to prove their validity. Example like multiple testimonies in a court case. Each stand on their own and have unique qualities but all 4 can be corroborated to give us a complete picture. The same is true of the rest of the New Testament and the Bible. So you have 27 independent historical sources all testifying to the same story of Jesus saying the same thing essentially. To have 27 independent, ancient documents written within a few decades and all talking about the same events that is unparalleled. Nothing even comes close.
- Neither Jesus nor any bible writer called one scripture into question
 - It's not like they could get together and collude
 - 1 Cor. 15:45, Matthew 19:9,
 - 2 Cor. 11:3, 1 Tim 2:13-14
 - Noah- Jesus and Peter
 - Israelites crossed the red sea and got water from a rock- 1 Cor. 10
 - Jonah- Jesus in Mt 12 compared his resurrection to Jonah and said those at Nineveh repented at Jonah's preaching
 - 2 Peter 3- Peter puts Paul's writings on par with the rest of scripture
- Jesus and the bible writers believed even the smallest details were accurate
 - Jesus quotes from or alludes to 18 different OT books believing it to be the accurate word of God
 - Matthew 5:17-18
 - John 10:34-36- Jesus was being attacked and He quoted from Psalm 82:6 saying why is there a problem calling me God
 - Scripture cannot be broken- They did not say he erred they and Jesus knew the Bible cannot be broken
 - Mt 22:41-45 (Psalm 110:1) - Focused on the word Lord- David called Jesus Lord
 - Jesus believed even the smallest details were accurate
 - Luke 24:25-26- All the prophets have spoken

3. Manuscript Evidence

4. Historical Evidence

5. Literature Evidence

6. Prophecy Evidence

7. The Canon