



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

April 07, 2013

DOUBTS & **ANSWERS**

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Is the Bible Reliable? 2Peter 1:16-21

Thesis: You can reason to a point of probability (proof) beyond a reasonable doubt that the Bible is reliable & building your life on it is a brilliant thing to do.

THE BIBLE IS... (P.R.E.A.C.H.)

Prophetically **P**owerfully v19; Rev22:16; John 5:39-40; Luke24:25-27 Written over a span of 1600 years by 40 authors, 66 books & one common theme: Jesus! OT prophecy is of the coming Messiah (Jesus) and the NT is the fulfillment. Throughout the OT there are more than 300 predictions concerning the Messiah.

Remarkably **R**eliable with Manuscript evidence Vv19-21; 2Tim3:16-17; 1Pet1:24-25; Matt7:24-27

The Bible is without question the single best documented piece of ancient literature there is. If you have a good modern translation of the Bible you have almost exactly what the ancient authors wrote.

Established by **E**ye witness accounts vv16-18;

John1:14, 29; 20:18, 28; Luke24:32 These Story's of Jesus could not be legends but true eyewitness accounts because they were written too early (15-20years), content is too counterproductive & literary form is too detailed.

Archeologically **A**ccurate v19; Acts 26:26

Archaeology has been called "the Bible's best friend," a statement that reflects the long history of discoveries supportive of the biblical record.

Credited by millions of **C**hanged lives vv16, 19, 21;

Heb4:12; Rom1:16; 1Pet1:8 Two ways the Gospel (God's word) can change your life: One – painstaking historical research to test the authenticity of the historical record. Two – Divine truth can be self-authenticating.

Honored by early **H**istorians v16; Luke 1:1-4; Acts1:1-

3 There are many well-known, respected First-century historians who supported biblical history: Josephus (37-110 AD), The first-century Roman Tacitus (56-117 AD), Pliny the Younger (61-112 AD); Ignatius (50-115 AD), Justin Martyr (100-165 AD), Tertullian (160-220 AD)



Growing

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- 1) Do you think most people today in America would say that the Bible is reliable or unreliable? Explain. What would be a normal response if someone believed the Bible to be the very words of God?
- 2) Read 2Peter 1:16-21. What stands out to you? Peter is talking about his experience of seeing Jesus transfigured (vv16-18; Mark 9:2-13). How does he compare this experience to Biblical prophecy (v19) and who is the "Morning Star" (Rev22:16)?
- 3) Jesus fulfilled more than 300 biblical predictions! Is the Bible primarily man's search for God or God's search for man & what difference would that make in your understanding of the Bible (John 5:39-40; Luke24:25-27)? Because the Bible is without question the single best documented piece of ancient literature how does it refute the argument it's been lost in translation? (Vv19-21; 2Tim3:16-17; 1Pet1:24-25; Matt7:24-27)
- 4) The New Testament writings are filled with eyewitness accounts of those who not only encountered Christ but also died or were willing to die for Him. How much credibility does that bring? What role does archeology play in building credibility?
- 5) How does the Bible change people lives & at the same time lend credibility (vv16, 19, 21; Heb4:12; Rom1:16; 1Pet1:8)? The Bible is also honored by early Historians & History is His Story: "The Bible is an adventure story about a young Hero who comes from a far country to win back his lost treasure."-(Jones) How does that quote summarizing the Bible speak to you? What was most significant to you in this study? Pray.