

Is The Bible The
Word of God?

Good reason for considering this issue

- Hoaxes have deceived gullible people.
 - Da Vinci Code
- Skeptics attack Bible.
 - John Shelby Spong
- Presumed friends of Bible caught in moral compromise.
 - Jim Bakker . . .
- Some think they have found contradictions.
 - Bart Ehrman, Mk.2:26

Mk.2:26

[David] ...how he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?”

- “In the days of” (= *at the time of*)
- General reference –

Prolepsis:

“President Lincoln was born in KY.”

Ampliatio:

“President Lincoln was buried in IL.”

We should not doubt that God is ...therefore revelation is –

- Possible
 - If His people can communicate . . .
- Reasonable
 - Why would God give us speech if He did not intend to use it?
- Factual
 - God has spoken. Hb.1:1

I. Unity

Unity of the Bible

66 books

1500 yrs.

40 writers

Variety of . . .

- occupations
- backgrounds
- places
- styles (law; history; poetry; parable; biography; epistles)

One great theme

Moses: Egypt

Ezra: scribe

Nehemiah: servant

David: shepherd

Isaiah: prophet

Daniel: counselor

Amos: herdsman

Matthew: publican

Luke: physician

John: fisherman

Paul: rabbi

Wilderness

Babylon / Jeru.

Babylon / Jeru.

Israel

Jerusalem

Babylon

Israel

Capernaum?

Europe/Asia?

Asia Minor?

Europe/Asia

66 books; 1500 years; 40 different writers

- Not one passage contradicts another
- NT quotes OT – fulfillment / application
- Quote forty philosophers over 1500 years...
no contradictions??
 - Stephen Jay Gould / Niles Eldridge
- **Greece:** Pericles (460-430 BC)
 - **Religion:** ‘mere mass of contradictory fables’
 - **Iliad:** gods take sides, help favorite mortals

Rome (1/2)

- Spirits inhabited everything around them...
- “Festival of Robigus” (Apr.25): worshipped to avert fungal blight in young cornfields.”
- “...Cosmos contains indefinitely large population of gods, most unknown to humans.”
- Roman state prayers list a series of divinities but end, cautiously, with “and all the other gods.”

Rome (gods) (2/2)

- **Deus** (had always been immortal)
- **Divus** (had once lived as a human)
- **Nymph** (generally benevolent) or spirit (some unkind)
- Some had qualities of Justice, Good Faith...
 - Ac.28:4, **Justice**
 - Ac.28:11, Twin brothers (gods: **Castor**, **Pollux**, sons of Zeus – were translated to the sky; became a constellation of special favor towards sailors)

Bible: even circumstantial statements prove unity of writers . . .

- Ex.9:31, eighth plague: hail; destroyed **flax**
 - Darkness . . . then Passover (Ex.12)
- Josh.4:19, forty years later, entered Canaan (3:13) . . . kept Passover (5:10)
 - Josh.2:6, Rahab hid spies under drying **flax**
- Mk.6:39, Jesus caused 5000 to recline on **green grass** [Jn.6:4, Passover was near]
- Ac.2:39 . . . 10-11 . . . 15:1-7

I. Unity

II. Accuracy

If Bible is word of God

...we expect it to speak accurately
on every subject it discusses

- Flood, Gn.6-8
- Tower of Babel, Gn.11
- Hittites, in Canaan, Gn.23:10
- Plagues on Egypt, Ex.7-14
- Moses' authorship of Pentateuch, Ex.17:14
- Herod, Herodias, John, Mt.14:3-4
- Tanners lived by sea, Ac.10:6

Human productions are remarkable for inaccuracies

- Herodotus (I. xii., x.)
 - Accepted view of his day
- Tacitus, *History and Description of Germany*
- Britannica, first publication
- Adam Clarke, Gn.1:16

Contrast Moses in Egypt

I. Unity

II. Accuracy

III. Purity

Bible always commends righteousness, condemns sin, even of heroes

- Moses, Nu.20
- David, 2 Sm.12
- Solomon, 1 K.11
- Did Israel derive high moral code (Ex.20...) from –
 - 1) Egypt?
 - 2) Canaan?
 - 3) Themselves? (Dt.9:24)

NT:

Mt.5

Ro.12

Where did NT writers derive high moral code (Mt.5; Ro.12)?

Greece / Greek gods?

- Ugly, immoral, obscene
- Salvation totally absent from their religion
- No sense of sin
- Rejoiced in their human nature
 - Made everything 'god'
- Euripides: how could gods prescribe law for man and then be guilty of sin themselves?

Where did NT writers derive high moral code (Mt.5; Ro.12)?

If Greek wanted to be...

- Ugly, immoral
 - Salvation
 - No sense
 - Rejoiced in their immoral nature
 - Made everything 'god'
 - Euripides: how could gods prescribe law for man and then be guilty of sin themselves?
1. Drunk: Dionysus
 2. Vicious: Aphrodite Pandemos
 3. Thief: Hermes

Where did NT writers derive high moral code (Mt.5; Ro.12)?

Rome / Roman gods?

- Seneca: “a woeful contrast in spirit between their words and their life”
- Brilliant German doctors / scientists...
- Disciples: without revelation from God . . .
 - Mt.14:26
 - 1 Co.5:1 . . . 6:12...

I. Unity

II. Accuracy

III. Purity

IV. Effect

Bible has changed views of nations

- Slavery
- Women
- Mercy
- Justice
- U.S. constitution largely based on biblical principles
- People who live without Bible, live without hope