

Strength to Stand Against the Winds – Quotation Handout for Doctrinal Series Part 1 “Possessing Ultimate Truth”

“...Be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine...” Ephesians 4:14

Some Say: “Science is Truth”

“...Science is real. It's so sad that some of those kids will be brainwashed when they grow up to doubt science...” Susan...

Some Say: “Ancient Philosophy is Truth”

“The miracle is not to fly in the air, or to walk on the water; but to walk on the earth.” Chinese Proverb

Some Say: “Your Truth Is Within”

“When your truth unfolds like a flower being born, you will feel it in your heart and know its true.” Fran Hafey

The Word Says: “Yahshua & the Bible are Truth”

John 17:17 “Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is Truth.”

In the Last Days A Famine of the Word Was Foretold

Amos 8:11 “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the Words of the LORD.”

WIND IS A Metaphor of False Doctrine

Ephesians 4:14 “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with **every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.”

Spiritual Maturity Comes With Understanding Doctrine

Isaiah 28:9 “Whom shall He teach knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.”

Knowing Doctrine Effects Salvation

1 Timothy 4:16 “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

We Need Deliverance from Babylon’s Wine

Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of YHWH’s vengeance; He will render unto her a recompense. Babylon... made all the earth drunken: **the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.** Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed...We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her... for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies.”
Jeremiah 51:6-9

If We Are Drunk With Her Wine = Mark of the Beast

Revelation 14:8-10 “And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, **because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.** And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...”

Wine – A Symbol of Wisdom

Proverbs 9:1-6 - Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars... **she hath mingled her wine**... Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, **Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine** which I have mingled. Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.”

YAH’s Promise for Wine

Isaiah 55:1-3 “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto Me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto Me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you...”

Joel 2:19 “Yea, YHWH will answer and say unto His people, Behold, I will send you corn (wheat), and wine (fresh grape juice), and oil (anointing), and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen.”

Knowing True Doctrine is a Salvational Issue

2 John 1:9-11 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”

Warnings Against the Doctrines of Men

Matthew 15:7-9 “Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

Warnings of Satanic Doctrine In the Last Days

1 Timothy 4:1 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

Warnings Against Strange Doctrine

Hebrews 13:9 “Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace...”

The Majority Is Usually Dead Wrong!

The Religious Majority Rejected Yahshua!

Truth isn't Popular

2 Timothy 4:2-4 “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

The Narrow Way

Matthew 7:13-15 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. **Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.**”

“As ye have therefore received Christ (Yahshua) the Lord, so walk ye in Him: Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught... Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” Colossians 2:6-7

True Doctrine is Found in the Bible

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

How Can We Trust the Bible?

To determine the veracity of the Bible, we will TEST IT WITH THE M. A. P. S. System

(Test the reliability of the MANUSCRIPT, test the veracity of its records against finds in ARCHAEOLOGY, test the consistency of its PROPHECIES which are fulfilled, and test its STATISTICAL reliability).

“The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of about 900 documents, including texts from the Hebrew Bible, discovered between 1947 and 1956 in eleven caves in and around the ruins of the ancient settlement of Khirbet Qumran on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea...The texts are of great religious and historical significance, as they include the oldest known surviving copies of Biblical... documents... They are written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, mostly on parchment, but with some written on papyrus.” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea Scrolls

The Dead Sea Scrolls

*“The biblical manuscripts from Qumran, which include at least fragments from every book of the Old Testament, except... for the Book of Esther, provide a far older cross section of scriptural tradition than that available to scholars before...” Fagan, Brian M., and Charlotte Beck, **The Oxford Companion to Archeology, entry on the "Dead sea scrolls", Oxford University Press, 1996***

“Comparisons of the Dead Sea Scrolls (does reveal some variations to the Septuagint) It is imperative to note that these “variations” are extremely minor (i.e., grammatical errors, spelling differences or missing

words) and **do not affect the meaning of sentences and paragraphs.** (An exception is the book of Jeremiah, in which the actual passages are arranged differently.) **None of the differences, however, come close to affecting any area of teaching or doctrine.** The majority of the Septuagint... and the Dead Sea Scrolls are remarkably similar and have dispelled unfounded theories that the Biblical text has been corrupted by time and conspiracy. www.allabouttruth.org/septuagint-2.htm

How Can We Trust the Bible?

The Time Interval

The N.T. has earlier manuscripts closer to the time of original composition. These demonstrate accuracy.

For example:

- John Ryland fragment (117-138 A.D.) - one generation
- Bodmer Papyrus (150-200 A.D.) - whole books
- Chester Beatty Papyri (250 A.D.) - most of the N.T.
- Romans – Chester Beatty Museum

Degree of Accuracy

Even with 25 thousand NT manuscripts, they are so close that we are virtually certain of 97% - 98% of the New Testament. For the remaining 2-3%, almost ½ are 1 and 2 word variants for spelling, adding “the”, etc. which don’t affect doctrine. www.BibleQuery.org

Degree of Accuracy

“If Comparative trivialities such as changes of order, the insertion or omission of the article with proper names, and the like are set aside, the words in our opinion still subject to doubt can hardly amount to more than a thousandth part of the New Testament.” **B.F. Westcott and F.J.A. Hort, The New Testament in the Original Greek, Vol. 1, p.2**

A. T. Robertson agrees that the real concern of Textual Criticism is of a “thousandth part of the entire text.”

A. T. Robertson, An Introduction to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament, 1925, p. 22

Criteria for Establishing Credibility in a Legal Witness - Using this Criteria to Examine the New Testament Witnesses

- Do the witnesses contradict each other?
 - Matthew (27:5): Judas "hanged himself."
 - Acts (1:18): "... falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out."
 - Resolution: "Sometime after hanging himself, his body was discovered, the rope cut, and the body fell on sharp rocks and burst open." Dr. Norman Geisler
- Are there a sufficient number of witnesses?
 - There are nine different people who wrote the N.T., all of whom were eye witnesses or contemporary to the events they recorded. Six of them are most important to establishing Yahshua’s claim of miracles (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, and 1 Corinthians).
 - All of these books bear witness to the miracle of the Resurrection.
 - In 1 Cor. 15, Paul mentions there were 500 people who saw Yahshua after the Resurrection.
- Were the witnesses truthful?
 - Most of them even died for what they taught about Christ (2 Timothy 4:6-8; 2 Peter 1:14). Nothing earthly to gain by their messages.
- Were they non-prejudicial?
 - The witnesses to the resurrection had nothing to gain personally.
 - They were persecuted and threatened with death for their stand. (cf. Acts 4, 5, 8)
 - The witnesses wrote things that didn’t reflect favorably on themselves or their cause:
 - Disciples arguing about positions of honor in heaven; who would have a seat at Yahshua’s right hand
 - Peter not eating with those who were uncircumcised
 - Women found the tomb empty first
 - Yahshua called Peter “Satan”

Did the Writers Use Primary Sources? YES!

- Luke 1:1-4
- 2 Pet. 1:16 says, “For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we make known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His Majesty.”
- I John 1:3 says, “What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

- John 19: 35 says, “And he who has seen has borne witness, and his witness is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.”

Do other historical material confirm or deny the internal testimony of the Bible?

The test asks: What other sources are there, apart from the documents under analysis, that substantiate its accuracy, reliability and authenticity?

External Evidence Test

“Indeed so extensive are these citations that if all other sources for our knowledge of the text of the New Testament were destroyed, they would be sufficient alone for the reconstruction of practically the entire New Testament.” **Bruce Metzger, The Text of the New Testament, p. 86**

Extra-Biblical Secular Sources

| Writer | Date | Subject |
|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| Cornelius Tacitus | 112 | Death of Yahshua at the hands of Pilate |
| Lucian | 2 nd C | The rise of Christianity |
| Flavius Josephus | 66 | Life/Death of Yahshua |
| Suetonius | 120 | Jews’ expulsion from Rome due to Christ |
| Pliny | 112 | Christians bound not to sin - Yahshua |
| Thallus | 52 | Histories-Darkness at Christ’s death |
| Philegon | 1 st C | Darkness at time of Crucifixion |
| Mara Bar-Serapion | 73 | Calamities brought by death of Yahshua |

Confirmation in the Talmud – Demonstrating Agreement Even in Anti-prejudicial sources

Confirms the historicity of Yahshua’s life.

Confirms His death by the method of crucifixion (The Jewish method of execution would have been stoning)

Indicates that Yahshua did do miraculous things but attributed his power to the devil (similar to Mark 3:22; Matthew 9:34; 12:24)

Indicated that Yahshua gathered many converts from the Jewish community

The Number of Copies:

5,686 hand written Greek N.T. manuscripts

10,000 Latin Vulgate

Close to 25,000 manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament exist today

Norman Geisler, Unshakable Foundations, p. 257

The Testimony of Archaeology

No archaeological evidence has ever refuted the Bible.

Thousands of archaeological finds support the Bible. Dr. Norman Geisler

Archaeological Discoveries:

- Pharaoh Shishak’s attack on Israel (1 Ki 14:25-26) confirmed by the walls of the Temple of Amun.
- Mesha Inscription – Louvre - Moab’s revolt against Israel (2 Ki 3:4-27) confirmed by the Mesha Inscription.
- The Existence of the Hittites
 - In the 19th C, the Bible was accused of being fictitious because no non-Biblical texts have been written about the Hittites. In 1906, digs at Hattushash proved that it was the capital city of the Hittites.
- “Pontius Pilate Prefect of Judea” 26-37 AD (Discovered 1961)
- Whoever Heard of Politarchs?
 - Acts 17:6 - CONCERNING THE TERM "RULERS OF THE CITY" (GREEK "POLITARCHS")...
 - Since the term is not found in the classical literature of the Greeks it was assumed that Luke was wrong to refer to such an office. HOWEVER... some 19 inscriptions have now been found that make use of this title; five of these are in reference to Thessalonica!

“In extraordinary ways, modern archeology has affirmed the historical core of the Old and New Testaments- corroborating key portions of the stories of Israel’s patriarchs, the Exodus, the Davidic monarchy, the life and times of Jesus.” **Jeffrey Sheler, “Is the Bible True?”, US News and World Report, Oct. 25, 1999, p. 52**

- Noah’s Ark Found
- Red Sea Crossing Point Found!
- The Real Mt. Sinai Found! (Wyatt Archaeological Museum)

- Polonium Halos – formed in Granite prove that this rock could only have been created instantly! – not over time!

Prophecies of the Bible have come true – yet another proof of the Bible’s veracity.

Examples are the Messianic Prophecies, All of Which Were Fulfilled in Yahshua

- Place of birth (Mic. 5:2)
- Time of birth (Dan. 9:25)
- Manner of birth (Is. 7:14)
- Sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12)
- Manner of death (Ps. 22:16)
- People’s reactions (mocking, spitting, staring, etc.) (Ps. 22:7,8, 17)
- His side pierced (Zech. 12:10)
- Burial in a rich man’s tomb (Is 53:9)

More Examples of Bible Prophecies which Have Come True:

- Sidon (Ezekiel 28:22-23);
- Samaria (Hosea 13:16 & Micah 1:6);
- Gaza-Ashkelon (Amos 1:8; Jeremiah 47:5; Zephaniah 2:4);
- Moab-Ammon (Ezekiel 25:3-4; Jeremiah 48:47 & 49:6);
- Petra-Edom (Isaiah 34:6-15; Jeremiah 49:17-18; Ezekiel 25:13-14 & 35:57);
- Thebes-Memphis (Ezekiel 30:13-15);
- Nineveh (Nahum 1:8-10; 2:6; 3:10; 3:13; 3:19);
- Babylon (Daniel 2,7; Isaiah 13:19-22; 14:23;
- Jeremiah 51:26 & 43);
- Chorazin-Bethsaida-Capernaum (Matthew 11:20-24);
- Jerusalem Enlargement (Jeremiah 31:38-40); and finally
- Palestine (Leviticus 26:31-33 & Ezekiel 36:33-35), where the events are happening before our eyes!

How Can We Trust the Bible?

Weigh the Statistical Probability

Probability of 8 prophecies being fulfilled in the life of Christ by chance: 1×10^{17}

Probability of 48 Prophecies being fulfilled in the life of Christ by chance: 1×10^{157} (there are more atoms than there are in the Universe) Taken from **Peter Stoner, Science Speaks Statistical Probability Affirmed**

The Bible has passed all the tests- clearly it is THE TRUSTWORTHY Source for Truth and True Doctrine

True Doctrine is Found in the Bible

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

Detecting False Doctrine vs. Truth

2 Timothy 2:15-16 “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.** But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.”

YOU Are Called to Study!

Acts 17:10-11 “And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

Deuteronomy 32:2 “My doctrine shall drop as the rain, My speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass.”

YHWH’s People Will Know the Truth!

Isaiah 32:2 “And **a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind,** and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.”