

CRACKING THE DA VINCI CODE

Part 2: The Validity of Scripture

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Many claims of The Da Vinci Code could lead to the assumption that the Bible is neither holy nor accurate. The resulting controversy is obvious, as the Bible claims to be not only holy and accurate, but to be the eternal inspired word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16 *"All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."*

1 Peter 1:25 *"The Word of the Lord stands forever."*

2 Peter 1:20-21 *"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*

Over 2000 times in the Old Testament alone there are phrases like...

*And God spoke...
The Word of the Lord came...
And God said...*

You need to know that by virtue of its own text the Bible says "it's all or nothing".

I. THE BIBLE IS UNIQUE...

1. IN ITS COMPOSITION.

It was written over a period of 1600 years by more than 40 different human authors from a variety of backgrounds.

Some examples include: Joshua (a military general)
Daniel (a prime minister)
Peter (a fisherman)
Neheimiah (a king's cup bearer)

These authors made their contributions from vastly different places.

Some wrote in the wilderness (Moses)

Some wrote while in prison (Paul)

Some wrote while in exile (John)

The Bible was composed on three different continents:

Africa, Asia & Europe

...and in three different languages:

Hebrew, Aramaic & Greek

The contents of the Bible deal with every controversial topic known to man and yet from cover to cover there is unmistakable unity. From beginning to end there's one unfolding story - the story of God's plan of salvation for man.

2. IN ITS CIRCULATION.

It is without question the single most published book in the history of the world. Billions have been printed and purchased over the years and tens of millions continue to be sold and circulated year after year.

3. IN ITS TRANSLATION.

It's the single most translated book in the world and has already been translated into over 1200 different languages.

4. IN ITS DURABILITY.

It has survived - and flourished - in the face of bans and burnings, ridicule and criticism. Kings, rulers and politicians have done all in their power to wipe it out and yet it continues to not only maintain but to expand its influence over the human race.

The Bible is unique, but is it accurate?

II. IS THE BIBLE ACCURATE?

1. THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL TEST...

An examination of the book to determine how reliable - how true to the original manuscripts - the copies are that have passed down over the generations.

We've all heard of or read some of the ancient writings of Plato and Aristotle. No one questions the accuracy or the historicity of their works.

There are nine first generation copies of their original writings to test Bibliographically.

There are more than 5300 known Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. There are over 10,000 Latin Vulgate manuscripts. There are over 9300 other early versions. All together that's 24,600 manuscript copies of just the New Testament in existence today.

The Bible is, without question, the single best documented piece of ancient literature in the world. The second best documented is "the Iliad" by Homer with only 643 surviving manuscripts.

Of the 184,590 words in the New Testament, how many words are on the questionable list?

There are just less than 400, and none of these are words that carry any bearing on any major teaching or doctrinal matter.

2. THE INTERNAL EVIDENCE TEST...

This area of testing has to do with contradictions.

We've already pointed out the incredible unity and flow of scripture as it relates the singular truth that saving faith in Christ is the only hope for mankind.

There are no contradictions whatsoever from Genesis to Revelation affecting the central absolute claim of scripture. There are some passages that, in minute detail, appear to contradict each other. But when studied more carefully it becomes obvious that they aren't contradictions at all but are instead differing view points of the same event.

Other apparent contradictions are more the result of attempting to translate word for word from the ancient languages, the grammatical structure of sentences and the tenses of verbs.

And, yes, there are a handful of numbers and dates that seem to contradict each other. BUT, NOWHERE IN ALL OF SCRIPTURE ARE THE CORE TRUTHS OF THE FAITH EVER CALLED INTO QUESTION.

3. THE EXTERNAL EVIDENCE TEST...

The Bible makes hundreds of references to historical events, places and people - so there's plenty of opportunity for scripture to be proven wrong by the secular historical record.

There is remarkable agreement between the historical record and the Biblical account. In the few cases where there has appeared to be a discrepancy, further discoveries have always supported the Bible. William F Allbright - a renowned archeologist - says that "there can be no doubt that archeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Bible".

Examples: The Hitites
 King Belshazar

III. WHAT ABOUT MIRACLES?

The gospels were written within a hundred years of the events themselves. They were written and widely circulated at a time when eye witnesses to the events were still alive. If there had been inaccuracies printed about those events, people would have said so.

No one denied the miracles of Jesus. They were accepted as fact because there were too many eye witnesses for it to be any other way.

Is The Bible True? What's Your Verdict?