

NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Chapter 5 – The Reliability of Scripture

Chapter Summary

The Bible, as the inspired, infallible, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God, is the only reliable source of or standard for divine truth, moral conduct, and spiritual freedom that we have.

A. Discussion Starters

1. Without any regard for the Bible or absolute standards, try to write a definition for truth. Do you think the average person today ever gives such an exercise any thought?
2. Do polls and marketing surveys have too much influence in modern life? Do you think their findings are really accurate or representative of what most people like or believe? How could such surveys be improved?

C. Current Application

The Bible is truly a timeless book and the most authoritative statement on divine truth and wisdom. If you are not already doing so, start a through-the-Bible-in-a-year reading program this week. (Start with us through the NT and then through the OT). If you have fallen behind in your Bible reading, resolve to spend some extra time in the coming weeks to catch up. (This reading should be in addition to your devotional or topical reading)

Focus Passage – 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

B. Going Deeper

1. What sort of standards do unbelievers live by? How do most people define acceptable behavior?
2. 2 Tim 3:16-17 spells out the doctrine of scriptural inspiration. How do you best understand “inspiration” related to Scripture?
3. Briefly describe how God oversaw and guided the process of inspiration.
4. What does the Westminster Confession say about the basic concepts of Scripture?
5. Have minor copyists’ errors over the centuries affected the Bible’s infallibility? Why or why not?
6. How do infallibility and inerrancy differ? What term conveys the similar, primary significance of both?
7. What reality do the biblical writers testify to more than 3,800 times in the OT alone?
8. What is essential in the life of any individual in order for him or her to embrace a correct view of Scripture?

(More discussion questions on p. 178-79)

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Chapter 6 – Amazing Prophecies

Chapter Summary

Predictive biblical prophecy is a revelation of God and, as illustrated by prophecies concerning Tyre and Babylon, is always fulfilled and is therefore a trustworthy evangelistic tool.

A. Discussion Starters

1. Forecasting the weather is still an inexact science, even with today's high-tech aids. Has an inaccurate forecast ever affected your plans in a significant way? Share with your study group a particularly memorable instance of that?
2. If it were possible for you to know in detail all the future events of your life, what would you most want to know? Why? Would it be a good or bad thing to have such knowledge?

C. Current Application

Do a special study of some of the prophetic chapters in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and some of the Minor Prophets. Read them in several modern Bible translations and use reference works such as a good study Bible, a Bible dictionary or handbook, and commentaries, many of which can be found online. Write down the subject, theme, the prophecy's extent, its original target audience, and so forth. Memorize key points and verses well enough so you can use them in appropriate witnessing situations.

Focus Passage – Jeremiah 28:9

“As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom the LORD has truly sent.”

B. Going Deeper

1. What does Henry Morris say to indicate the superiority of biblical prophecy? P. 77
2. Briefly restate the definition of genuine predictive prophecy. P. 78
3. Based on Deuteronomy 18 & Jeremiah 28:9, what is God's standard for true prophecy? P. 78
4. What multi-faceted event constitutes the consummation of all Old Testament prophecy? P.79
5. What made Bible prophecy so distinctive at the time it was uttered? P.80
6. What two fields of study have repeatedly verified fulfilled prophecies? P.81
7. What modern day country was the city of Tyre located in? What was the ancient city noted for? P. 81
8. Describe the military operation against Tyre that began the fulfillment of Ezekiel 26:12. What army was conducting the operation? P.82
9. Where are the ruins of ancient Babylon, and what have archaeologists observed about them? What prophet's words were fulfilled by those facts? P. 87
10. What is the mathematical probability that all the prophecies concerning Babylon could have been fulfilled merely by chance or coincidence? P. 87

(More discussion questions on p. 180-181)