
IS THE BIBLE TRULY GOD'S WORD?

ST. MARK'S COPTIC
CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP
PROGRAM





INTRODUCTION

- Is the Bible truly God's Word?
- ...vs a good book?
- ...what sets it apart from other religious books?



INTRODUCTION

- IT IS TRULY GOD'S WORD!!!
 - It is the Word of God
 - It is Divinely Inspired
 - It is Totally Sufficient

- Hebrews 4:12: "For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."



BUT WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE?

- Internal Evidence
- External Evidence





INTERNAL EVIDENCE

■ **A) Unity**

- 66 different books
- 3 continents
- 3 languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek)
- Over 1600 years (-1500 Moses (Genesis) to +100 John (Revelation))
- >40 authors, of many walks of life/education/socioeconomic status
- Unified book (beginning to end) without contradiction - unlike other books
- This testifies to its divine origin



INTERNAL EVIDENCE

■ **A) Unity**

- One problem → SIN (Genesis 3:14-17)
 - One theme → SALVATION (2 Timothy 3:15)
 - One person → CHRIST (Luke 24:27)
 - One goal → GLORIFY GOD (1 Corinthians 10:31)
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- No broken telephone



INTERNAL EVIDENCE

- **B) Divinely Inspired**

- 2 Timothy 3:15-17: "...from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work"



INTERNAL EVIDENCE

- **C) Eyewitness**

- John 19:35, "And he who has seen has born witness, and his witness is true."
- 1 John 1:3, "What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also"



INTERNAL EVIDENCE

- **D) Prophecies**

- Over 300 prophecies concerning Jesus Christ in the Old Testament
 - Told where He was born, lineage, how He would die, and His resurrection
- In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul mentions there were 500 people who saw Christ after the Resurrection

INTERNAL EVIDENCE

- **E) Unfavourable accounts (aka - not all glamorous)**
 - Disciples arguing about positions of honour in heaven (Luke 9:46; Matthew 18)
 - Peter not eating with those who were uncircumcised (Galatians 2)
 - The Bible did not shy away from showing the pros and cons of the disciples—their human nature



BUT WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE?

- Internal Evidence
- External Evidence

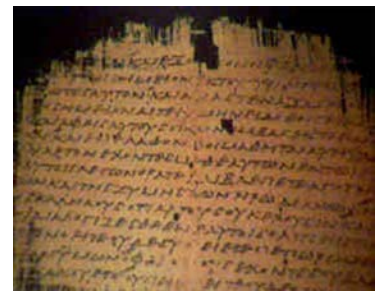


EXTERNAL EVIDENCE



Pontius Pilate coffin, discovered 1961

- **A) Historical Accuracy**
 - Archeological references and other writings that matches historical changes
 - Best documented book from the ancient world
- For example, the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:2) is believed to be in the northeast quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem
- Stone inscription documenting the life and office of Pontius Pilate; the ossuary (coffin) of Caiaphas, the High Priest of the crucifixion; and others that document accuracy and legitimacy of the Bible
- The Chester Beatty Papyrus (dated 200-250 AD), made public in 1931 - contains the Gospels, Acts, Paul's Epistles





EXTERNAL EVIDENCE

- **B) Scientific Accuracy**
 - Universe had a beginning (Genesis 1:1)
 - Universe has expanded (Isaiah 42:5)
 - Earth is round (Isaiah 40:22)
 - Earth is 'hung' in space (Job 26:7)



EXTERNAL EVIDENCE

- **C) Indestructability**

- No other book has suffered more vicious attacks to destroy it (ie Roman Emperors, dictators, atheists)
 - This book/faith has withstood heresies
 - It is the most widely published book in the world
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- Peter 1:25, "But the word of the Lord endures for ever. And this is the Word which by the gospel is preached unto you."



EXTERNAL EVIDENCE

■ **D) Modern Day Prophecy**

- The prophetic messages of the Bible are coming true in our day. In 2 Timothy, written almost 2,000 years ago, it says, "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power..." (2 Timothy 3:1-5).
- This is happening now.



IS THE BIBLE TRULY GOD'S WORD – MESSAGE TO US AS SERVANTS

- Testimony of science → DEMONSTRATES IT
 - Testimony of eyewitnesses → CONFIRMS IT
 - Testimony of manuscripts → PRESERVES IT
 - Testimony of Christ → VERIFIES IT
 - Testimony of Stones → SUPPORTS IT
 - Testimony of the Spirit → SPEAKS THROUGH IT
 - Testimony of the Believer → TRANSFORMED BY IT
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- To reject God's Word is more likely due to personal bias than lack of evidence. It is not the fact that the Bible contradicts itself, but that it contradicts people's thoughts and ways of life





IS THE BIBLE TRULY GOD'S WORD – MESSAGE TO US AS SERVANTS

- We have the evidence, we know the truth, but this is of little use to us if we do not take the time to read and understand this blessed book that we have been given.
 - A surgeon does not do surgery without first reading/studying anatomy
 - We cannot be Christians without reading/understanding the Bible
- And when we know and understand, we will be better equipped to share this Good News with others
- Take it as a challenge to yourselves, especially during this time to READ THE BIBLE

✠
THE HOLY GREAT FAST
 “The holy spiritual struggle” or “Drawing closer to God”

PART	THEME	WEEK	WEEK'S THEME	WEEKDAYS					WEEKEND		Sunday's Holy Gospel Reading	
				The Holy Spiritual Procession					The Savior's Grace			
				Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
ONE	The features of the procession / struggle	1	Preparation for Procession	Reject Evil Mk 9:33-50	Cleave to Good Lk: 12:41-50	Love & Give Lk 6:35-38	Grow in Spirit MK 4:21-29	Pray & Submit LK 11:1-10	Be Perfect Mt 5:38-48	Seek the Kingdom Mt 6:19-33	“Do not lay up treasures...Seek 1 st the Kingdom...”	
		2	Nature of Procession: STRUGGLE	Pray Always Lk 18:1-8	Follow Christ Mk 10:17-27	Assurance Mt 15:32-38	Reject, Give & Follow Mt 19:16-30	Build on Rock Lk 6:39-49	Difficulties on the Road Mt 7:13-21	Victory Mt 4:1-11	Temptation in the Wilderness	
		3	Purity of Procession: REPENTANCE	Confession of Repentance Lk 11:33-36	Righteousness of Repentance Jn 8:31-39	Temptation of Repentance Lk 4:1-13	Judgment of Repentance Jn 12:44-50	Faithfulness of Repentance Lk 11:14-26	Forgiveness of Repentance Mt 18:23-35	Acceptance of Repentance Lk 15:11-32		The Prodigal Son
		4	Constitution of Procession: THE HOLY GOSPEL	Spirit of the Holy Gospel Lk 16:1-9	Spreading the Holy Gospel Lk 9:57-62	Peace of the Holy Gospel Mk 4:35-41	Light of the Holy Gospel Lk 18:35-43	Faith in the Holy Gospel Mt 15:21-31	Works & Fruits of the Holy Gospel Mt 21:33-46	Glory of the Holy Gospel Jn 4:1-42		Samaritan Woman

How to Read the Bible
What is the Bible?

 5:48
 How to Read the Bible: What is the Bible?
 BibleProject
 YouTube - Feb 15, 2017

How to Read the Bible
The Gospel

 5:47
 How to Read the Bible: The Gospel
 BibleProject
 YouTube - Nov 11, 2019

How to Read the Bible
Psalms

 5:30
 How to Read the Bible: Psalms
 BibleProject
 YouTube - Nov 15, 2018

365 Day Bible Reading Plan
 Read the Entire Bible in One Year

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	✓
1	Genesis 1-5	Genesis 6-7	Genesis 8-11	Job 1-5	Job 6-8	Job 10-13	Job 14-16	
2	Job 17-23	Job 24-28	Job 29-31	Job 32-34	Job 35-37	Job 38-41	Job 42	
3	Job 43-48	Genesis 12-15	Genesis 16-18	Genesis 19-21	Genesis 22-24	Genesis 25-28	Genesis 27-29	
4	Genesis 30-31	Genesis 32-34	Genesis 35-37	Genesis 38-40	Genesis 41-42	Genesis 43-45	Genesis 46-47	
5	Genesis 48-50	Exodus 1-3	Exodus 4-6	Exodus 7-8	Exodus 9-12	Exodus 13-15	Exodus 16-18	
6	Exodus 19-21	Exodus 22-24	Exodus 25-27	Exodus 28-29	Exodus 30-32	Exodus 33-35	Exodus 36-38	
7	Exodus 39-40	Leviticus 1-4	Leviticus 5-7	Leviticus 8-10	Leviticus 11-13	Leviticus 14-16	Leviticus 17-19	
8	Leviticus 19-21	Leviticus 22-25	Leviticus 24-26	Leviticus 26-27	Numbers 1-2	Numbers 3-4	Numbers 5-6	
9	Numbers 7	Numbers 8-10	Numbers 11-13	Num. 14-16, Psalms 90	Numbers 16-17	Numbers 18-20	Numbers 21-23	
10	Numbers 23-25	Numbers 26-28	Numbers 29-30	Numbers 31-32	Numbers 33-34	Numbers 35-38	Deuteronomy 1-2	
11	Deuteronomy 3-4	Deuteronomy 5-7	Deuteronomy 8-10	Deuteronomy 11-12	Deuteronomy 14-16	Deuteronomy 17-20	Deuteronomy 21-23	

- WEEK 41**
- 10/5/2013 1 John 3:8-12
 - 10/6/2013 Acts 5:1-11
 - 10/7/2013 Hosea 13:1-8
 - 10/8/2013 James 1:12-15
 - 10/9/2013 Romans 5:1-5
 - 10/10/2013 Deuteronomy 6:1-19
 - 10/11/2013 Psalm 148:1-14

- WEEK 48**
- 11/23/2013 Hebrews 6:7-15
 - 11/24/2013 Psalm 42
 - 11/25/2013 Haggai 1:1-11
 - 11/26/2013 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
 - 11/27/2013 Revelation 22:7-16
 - 11/28/2013 Psalm 93
 - 11/29/2013 Psalm 30:4-12

- WEEK 42**
- 10/12/2013 2 Corinthians 3:1-6
 - 10/13/2013 Acts 13:42-52
 - 10/14/2013 Malachi 1:1-14
 - 10/15/2013 Matthew 5:3-11
 - 10/16/2013 Matthew 6:1-8
 - 10/17/2013 Exodus 15:1-18
 - 10/18/2013 Matthew 14:15-21

- WEEK 49**
- 11/30/2013 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
 - 12/1/2013 Philippians 2:1-11
 - 12/2/2013 Psalm 19:7-14
 - 12/3/2013 Acts 26:8-18
 - 12/4/2013 1 Corinthians 15:51-58
 - 12/5/2013 Psalm 112:4-9
 - 12/6/2013 Colossians 3:8-17

- WEEK 43**
- 10/19/2013 James 4:1-6
 - 10/20/2013 2 Corinthians 10:1-18
 - 10/21/2013 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9
 - 10/22/2013 Hebrews 11:35-40
 - 10/23/2013 2 Timothy 1:1-17
 - 10/24/2013 Romans 3:21-28
 - 10/25/2013 Luke 18:1-8

- WEEK 50**
- 12/7/2013 2 Peter 1:1-18
 - 12/8/2013 2 Timothy 2:1-4
 - 12/9/2013 Psalm 102:3-12
 - 12/10/2013 James 1:1-8
 - 12/11/2013 Hebrews 8:6-13
 - 12/12/2013 Galatians 4:1-7
 - 12/13/2013 Luke 12:13-21

- WEEK 44**
- 10/26/2013 James 4:7-17
 - 10/27/2013 Psalm 139:7-18
 - 10/28/2013 Genesis 22:1-14
 - 10/29/2013 1 John 4:7-11
 - 10/30/2013 Romans 1:18-32
 - 10/31/2013 Luke 10:1-12
 - 11/1/2013 Psalm 34

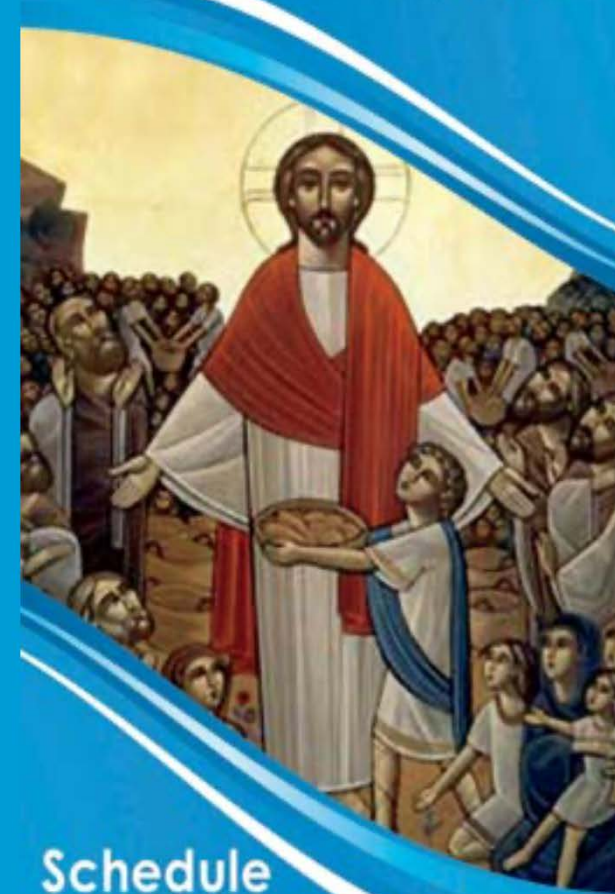
- WEEK 51**
- 12/14/2013 Hebrews 2:1-4
 - 12/15/2013 Luke 9:51-56
 - 12/16/2013 Matthew 8:1-4
 - 12/17/2013 Luke 2:1-7
 - 12/18/2013 Lamentations 3:19-27
 - 12/19/2013 Philippians 2:5-11
 - 12/20/2013 2 Timothy 3:14-17



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**“I am the bread
 of life.”**
 ~ John 6:35



**Schedule
 for
 Daily Quiet Time**



IS THE BIBLE TRULY GOD'S WORD – MESSAGE TO US AS SERVANTS

- “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” Mark 13:31

QUESTIONS?

