

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE? - 1

Goal of this lesson: To show that the Bible can be trusted as a historical revelation from God and as a guide for our lives.

1. Yes, because of what the Bible claims for itself. It claims to be the word of God so at least someone should check out a book that makes this kind of claim. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3: 16, 17, *"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."* The Bible also says in 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."* Other verses that speak concerning this are: 1 Thessalonians 2: 13; Hebrews 4: 12; Psalms 119: 86; Psalms 119: 160; Matthew 5: 6.

2. Yes, because the Bible is history and is historically reliable - Archaeology shows the Bible is accurate in places, names, characters and objects.

Examples are:

--**The Dead Sea scrolls were discovered in 1947 in the caves of Qumran by a young Bedouin (one in the desert)**

shepherd boy. "The Dead Sea scrolls were the library of a previously unknown first-century Jewish sect. They were stored in caves near the community of Qumran for safekeeping in the face of advancing Roman troops in about AD 70.... They contain the text of most of the Old Testament and the rules and regulations of the community at Qumran.

The Old Testament text from Qumran is 900 years older than any previous copy of the Old Testament, and it is virtually identical. **This vindicates the textual integrity of the Old Testament for an additional 1,000 years and probably farther.**"¹ The dead Sea Scrolls were made of parchment (animal skins), papyrus, and bronze/copper.



Isaiah Scroll

Credit: The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

-- **Herod's, the king's, temple** has been discovered. He is mentioned in Luke 1:5, *"In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron."*



<http://www.bible-architecture.info/Jerusalem.htm>

-- **An early synagogue at the time of Jesus has been found in Capernaum** – Mark 1: 21- *"They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach."*



<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2007/08/Three-Woes!.aspx>

¹ <http://www.kencollins.com/answers/question-05.htm> - Accessed on July 29, 2011.

-- **The Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem**, as mentioned in John 9: 7 was discovered in 2004. John 9: 7 says, "'Go,' he told him, 'wash in the Pool of Siloam' (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing."



<http://www.wildolive.co.uk/baptism.htm>

-- **An inscription to Pilate in Latin carved in lime stone was discovered in 1961 at Caesarea. Luke 3: 1** – "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene..." It says in Latin, "To the Divine Augusti [this] Tiberieum...Pontius Pilate ...prefect of Judea...has dedicated [this]."² Prefect is like a governor.



Photo from: <http://www.bible-history.com/empires/pilate.html>

-- **An ossuary, now called the Ossuary of James**, was discovered in 2002 dating around 63 AD bears the names of Jesus, James, and Joseph It says in Aramaic "**James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus.**" Matthew 13: 55, 56 says, "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" (An **ossuary** is a box used to hold the bones of the dead.)³ this Same James was likely the author of the book of James in the Bible.

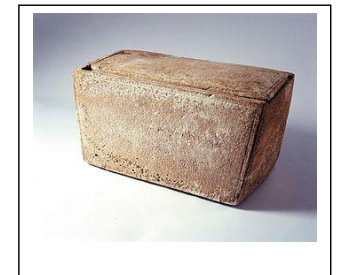


Photo from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Ossuary

3. Yes, we can trust the Bible because the Bible speaks beauty and truth to the heart. For example these beautiful verses:

Old Testament

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6: 4,5). "It is God who arms with strength and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on the heights" (Psalm 18: 33). "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul" (Psalm 23: 1, 2). "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin" (Psalm 51: 1, 2).

Other beautiful verses in the Old testament are: Psalm 40: 1, 2; Psalm 42: 1, 2; Psalm 96: 4-6; Psalm 106: 1; Psalm 119: 18, 105; Psalm 150: 6; Proverbs 3: 5; Isaiah 12: 2-3; Isaiah 40: 27-31; Jeremiah 29: 13.

² The Pilate stone, <http://biblicalartifacts.org/pilate.html>

³ (<http://www.spiritrestoration.org/Archeology/Evidence%20of%20characters%20named%20in%20the%20bible.htm>)
(There are many more examples of archaeological finds at this web site.)

New Testament

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" (Matthew 5: 6). (Blessed refers to more than just being happy. It is referring to a deep spiritual joy that does not depend on emotions.) "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7: 7). "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11: 28-30).

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (1 Corinthians 13: 1-7).

Other beautiful verses in the New testament are: John 1: 14; John 3: 16; John 10: 11; Acts 2: 38; Acts 2: 42-47; Romans 3: 22, 23; Romans 8: 38-39; Romans 12: 21; 2 Corinthians 4: 16-18; Philippians 4: 6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5: 23-24; Hebrews 3: 12-13; James 1: 2-4; 1 Peter 4: 14; 1 Peter 5: 8-9; 2 Peter 3: 8, 9.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has been your thoughts or feelings about the Bible up until now? How has this lesson helped you?
2. Why do you think God revealed himself through real historical events?

Remember the main point of this lesson:

The Bible can be trusted as a historical revelation from God and as a guide for our lives.

