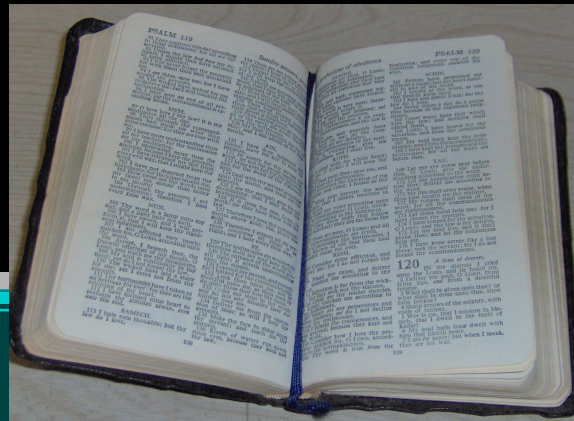


The Inerrancy and Authority of the Bible



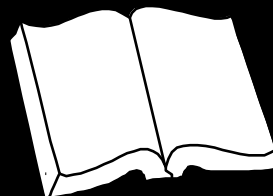
Vern S. Poythress, Ph.D., Th.D.

The Challenge

What difference will it make if I know that the Bible is true?



It affects your relation to God and your living.



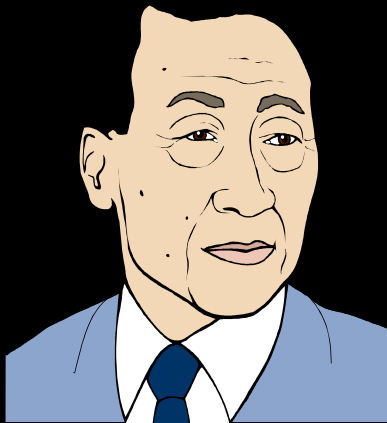
How to Live Using the Bible

- ◆ communion with Christ
- ◆ promises: trusting in Christ for salvation
- ◆ beliefs
- ◆ actions

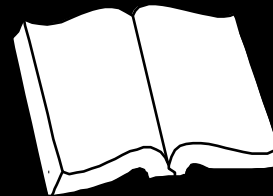
I. Why Believe the Bible?

The Challenge

The Bible
is full of
errors.



Actually,
there are many
evidences that
it is God's Word.



Issues

- ◆ Authority
- ◆ Evidence
- ◆ Identifying the voice of God
- ◆ Truthfulness
- ◆ Relationship to salvation
- ◆ Jesus' teaching

Attacks on the Bible

- ◆ science
- ◆ history
- ◆ philosophy
- ◆ morality
- ◆ alleged internal discrepancies

How to Communicate

- ◆ to yourself (taking heart)
- ◆ children
- ◆ the curious
- ◆ the hostile
- ◆ "But I don't know enough."

Evidence for the Bible

A. Prophecy





[illegible]

נא רוב קורא
שבת יחד
וחסדי ברו
וילך יחד
במחמד

באמור וצבאות מלאטום טוטל קדושנה
 ער טעות טול נבאע אהנה במען קדושנה ופ
 ורות שלומנה חרותה לני כהנא חורד למען
 דיוסא לילטום ולרמאותע וחד ער קדושנה
 ער ארץ כהב מאנונה וער כהנא שמוע ט

וְכַחֲדָו עִם קוֹדֶשׁ
 וְכַחֲדָו עִם קוֹדֶשׁ
 וְכַחֲדָו עִם קוֹדֶשׁ
 וְכַחֲדָו עִם קוֹדֶשׁ

והוא
על ידי
בית
אשר
במחנה

[illegible]

והוא אבותנו
לפנינו ונולדנו ונבדל
ודע כי הוא אבותנו
לאבותנו וישר מאד מ
עשתנו בזה הענין
גורלו פלאו חזק כ
אבותנו ונשיאנו
אבותנו ונשיאנו

גבורי חיל וכו' וכו'

Prediction of the Crucifixion

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. – Isa. 53:5-7

from Dead Sea Scrolls

inscribed about
150-100 B.C.

[illegible]

Prediction of Bethlehem

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days. —Micah 5:2

Fulfillment

Now after Jesus was born in
Bethlehem of Judea in the days of
Herod the king,

– Matthew 2:1

John the Baptist

For this [John] is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
makes his paths straight.'" – Matthew 3:3

(from Isaiah 40:3)

Jesus in Galilee

And leaving Nazareth he [Jesus] went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

Jesus in Galilee (2)

The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region
and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned. — Matthew 4:13-16

(from Isaiah 9:1-2)

B. The Resurrection of Christ

In Accord with God's Plan

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,
– 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Eye-Witnesses

and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

– 1 Corinthians 15:5-8

C. Harmony of Bible Contents

Moses

"Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

– John 5:45-47

All the Prophets

"And all the prophets who have spoken,
from Samuel and those who came after
him, also proclaimed these days."
— Acts 3:24, part of Peter's speech

D. The Way of Salvation

Triumph through Weakness

Who has believed what they heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been
revealed? ... He was despised and rejected by
men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with
grief; and as one from whom men hide their
faces he was despised, and we esteemed him
not. Surely he has borne our griefs and
carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him
stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

— Isaiah 53:1-4

"Foolishness"

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

– 1 Corinthians 1:18

The Glory of God

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

— Jeremiah 9:23-24

E. Testimony of the Holy Spirit

Hearing God's Voice

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

— John 10:27-30

The Work of the Holy Spirit

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.
– 1 Corinthians 2:2-5

A Summary

Westminster Confession of Faith (1.5):

We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the Church to a high and reverend esteem of the Holy Scripture.

A Summary (2)

And the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is, to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God:

A Summary (3)

yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.