

Why We Believe The Bible

Luke 1:1-4

Theme: The Bible

Aim: To show that there are both internal and external evidences for the inspiration of God's word and to consider some of both.

1. The Bible makes the claim for itself that it is a revelation from God, inspired by the Holy Spirit.
2. Those claims are significant in and of themselves. But are there any reasons we can give to accept those claims?
3. Indeed there are.

I. First we must acknowledge the need for a communication from God, a revelation.

A. The science of epistemology is concerned with how we learn.

1. We learn some things by observation, experimentation, instruction, reason.
2. But some things can only be known by revelation.

B. We then would expect God to communicate the mysteries of the spirit world to man.

1. What form would that revelation take?
2. It could take many forms, but it seems reasonable that it would take the most permanent and objective form possible.
3. That, it seems, is a written down form, i.e. a book that can be referred to and studied.

C. There would be other things that we would expect such a book to be.

1. We would expect it to be accurate where it could be tested.
2. We would expect it to teach us things that cannot be learned anywhere else.
3. We would expect it to be unlike any other book in the world.
4. The Bible certainly fills that bill.

II. Some internal (within the Bible itself) evidences for its acceptance as the word of, a revelation from, God.

A. The remarkable unity of the Bible.

1. Ask 40 people who witnessed the most recent ball game to describe what they saw. Would their descriptions be consistent?
2. But 40 men from different cultures over a period of 1600 years wrote the Bible, yet it is amazing in its unity of message and purpose.
3. One part (or writer) does not contradict or attempt to correct another part (or writer).
4. Consider the following words from Roy Deaver:

If a forty piece orchestra should suddenly begin to play – in perfect timing, melody, and harmony – it would be evidence of direction by a single mind.

If forty archers, in forty different places, widely separated in time, should shoot their arrows and all hit the same target “dead center” it would be evidence of (or proof of) direction by a single mind.

If forty men – widely separated in geography, with varied backgrounds, and living over a period of sixteen hundred years – should each write down a few lines, and these lines when brought together constituted a beautiful poem, it would be evidence of direction by a single mind.

Because of its marvelous and otherwise inexplicable unity, we believe that the Bible came from God – that it is miraculously inspired and is divine authority.

B. The historical and factual accuracy of the Bible.

1. The Bible has never been proven to contain a factual or historical error.
2. Sir William Ramsey set out to prove Luke was an inaccurate historian. He converted himself to Christianity as he investigated Luke's historical and geographical references.
3. Some have said Moses could not have written the Torah, because writing was not known in his day. Yet archeology has given us many evidences of writing that predate Moses.
4. For many years, the Bible's mention of the Hittites was used as proof that the Bible contained historical errors. But again archeology has produced evidence of the existence of such a people... to the point of digging up their national archives.

III. Some external evidences for the inspiration of the Bible.

A. The very fact of its existence argues for its divine origin.

1. Man, working out of his own devices, would not have written such a book.
2. Why would man write a book that demands he deny himself?
3. Why would man write a book that demands he turn the other cheek, do good to all men, even his enemies and those who would persecute him, and to seek the best for all men, even to his own detriment?
4. What about the concepts in the Bible. Would man have come up with the idea of grace and forgiveness, ideas that run contrary to his nature, apart from a gracious, forgiving, benevolent, loving God?

B. Consider also that:

1. The Bible is a perennial best seller, translated into more languages than any other book in history.
2. The remarkable staying power of the Bible. It has a freshness and appeal to every generation.
3. The remarkable influence of the Bible on art, education, literature, culture.
4. It is also the Book men want in times of trial. When in trouble folks look to the words of the Bible (the 23rd Psalm, the Lord's Prayer) for comfort and solace.

C. Two final thoughts.

1. Consider what is not in the Bible.
 - a. In Acts 7:22 we are told Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians.
 - b. Yet there are none of the false ideas of ancient Egyptian theology, science or medicine in the Bible.
2. The impartiality of the Bible. It tells of its hero's failings as well as their accomplishments.

1. All of this argues for a Divine origin to this remarkable book we call the Bible.

2. It is indeed a word, a message from God.

Though the cover is worn
And the pages are torn
And though places bear traces of tears;
Yet more precious than gold
Is the Book, worn and old,
That can shatter and scatter my fears.

When I prayerfully look
In the old precious Book
Many pleasures and treasures I see;
Many tokens of love

From the Father above
Who is nearest and dearest to me.

This old Book is my guide,
'Tis a friend by my side,
It will lighten and brighten my way;
And each promise I find
Soothes and gladdens my mind
As I read and heed it today.

---Anonymous