

THEME 1 IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

THE AGE OF THE BIBLE

The Bible is a book like no other. Which book spans 1,500 years of authorship? The Bible is unique in its continuity, it was written by more than 40 authors, was written in different eras and different cultural backgrounds, and at no time does the Bible contradict itself in its main message - the redemption of the world. The Bible does not pretend to be more than what it is, nonetheless, within its pages we can find references to scientific, historical, engineering, health, future prophecy themes that sets it apart from other contemporary and modern books from the time it was written.

AMAZING EXAMPLES THAT ARE CONTAINED IN THE BIBLE:

HEALTH WARNING: Read Deuteronomy 23:13. This simple phrase teaches us about the dangers of infections brought on by human waste and the need to not leave them out in the open. Even though many say that this is obvious, it wasn't so in times past, this includes medieval and modern times. Yet, thousands of years before the Bible already had indications of how in order to stay "clean" one would need to practice healthy and cleanly principles in order to avoid "plagues" or the way the Bible puts it "uncleanliness."

ASTRONOMY: Many people nowadays accuse those who believe in the Bible as those who think the earth is not round but flat. It may have been that at some point some people may have forgotten what the Bible says about this theme that was written nearly 3,000 years ago. Isaiah 40:22 says, "He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth." The Bible is one of the most ancient of books and it also tells us that the earth is suspended in space. Job 26:7 talks about how God hangs the earth in space.

ENGINEERING: Those who designs ships (enormous boats) know that in order for a a ship to stay afloat it needs to be six times longer than its width. In Genesis 6:15 God gave Noah these exact dimensions in order to build the ark so that it may have the correct dimensions to keep it afloat. Again, these details were given thousand of years ago.

HYGIENE: Nowadays we know that when mold sprouts in a home, the city has to come to inspect because of the health dangers to the people who live in that home are exposed. Where did this idea come from? From scientists or from God? These matters where so detailed that they could be used as rules for the way we take care of our homes. Read the very long passage in Leviticus 14:35-48 in order to know how wise the Bible is.

IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

Let's come to a conclusion regarding the Bible in relation to the various themes that are very interesting and some that are difficult especially those we will discuss in the next few weeks.

1. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORK - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible has authority to instruct us. The author of the Bible is God. If this is so, then the Bible is God's Word for yesterday, today, and the future. What the Bible teaches should be taken in all seriousness and with trust because God speaks with authority.

2. THE BIBLE SPEAKS TRUTH - John 17:17

Because we live in a world that refuses to accept that truth exists, the conflict that is created is confusion. We DON'T KNOW what to believe, and if someone believes or accepts something different to what others accept they are categorized as intolerant or ignorant. The Bible says that it is the "truth." And whoever finds this truth finds the right answers.

3. THE BIBLE IS RELEVANT FOR THE WORLD TODAY Matthew 24:35

The Bible is not an "ancient" book like many are led to believe. Jesus in his discourse about the end of the world said this, "*earth and sky will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*" There is something eternally contemporary in the Bible. We can still find advice for practical living, we find how to best manage money, how to raise children, and how to behave socially and morally. 1 Peter 1:25 says, "*The Word of The Lord Remains Forever.*"

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

How would you explain that the Bible is reliable?

Do you think that the advice in the Bible is relevant and contemporary for your life (in every area)?

Do you think that the advice of the Bible stayed in the past?

Have you ever experienced how God speaks to you through the Bible? Can you share one of those experiences?