

Notes for Session 1 - *Can I Really Trust the Bible?*

Special Revelation – God’s revealing of Himself through His written word, the Bible.
The only source of specific information about God.

General Revelation – God’s revealing of Himself through His creation.

“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made, so they are without excuse.” Romans 1:20

A supreme being exists
It is intelligent
It is creative
It values beauty and order
It merits my “seeking”

Apologetics – “Giving a reason.”

“In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” 1 Peter 3:15

Part 1 – Some Facts About the Bible

Over 40 authors – king, peasant, shepherd, philosopher, fishermen, poet, general, doctor, rabbi, tax collector.

Various places (3 continents) – wilderness, prison, hillside, palace, island, on the road.

Various circumstances – joy, despair, war, peace, judgment, awe, thoughtfulness, grief.

Various forms – poetry, historical records, letters, legal documents, prophecies, doctrinal treatises.

Three languages – Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek

Written over a period of 1500 years (40 generations)

Part 2 – Propositions about the Bible

The original manuscripts were...

Inspired – “God-breathed.” Not “mechanical” writing. The Holy Spirit wrote through the personalities of human authors (*dual authorship*).

Verbally inspired – *Exact* words were inspired—not just ideas.

Plenary inspiration – *Every* word was inspired.

Infallible – Totally trustworthy in spiritual matters.

Inerrant – Totally accurate in all matters (science, history, sociology, psychology).

Sufficient – No other spiritual truths are necessary.

Part 3 – What Skeptics say about the Bible

Authority – Did the information really come from God?

Authenticity – Is my copy of Scripture true to the original Scripture?

Evidence for Biblical Authority...

Confirmed by Jesus – quoted from OT, referenced OT people and events as true. (Was Jesus authoritative? Yes, He fulfilled over 300 prophecies. His teachings were effective. He verified Himself by miracles. He rose from the dead.)

The Apostles validated the OT and each other's writings. (1 Cor. 2:13, 2 Tim. 3:16, John 10:35)

Consistent with what we would expect from the Romans 1 Creator.

Efficacious in my personal life. (Scriptural principles work)

Teachings are effective for billions of others. Principles, wisdom, commandments, and promises work in the real world in real situations.

The Holy Spirit within me confirms the Word of God.

Fulfilled prophecies. All prophecies that could be fulfilled by the present, have been.

Internal coherence

Historical accuracy

Scientific accuracy

Assumption – older copy more accurate?

Dead Sea Scrolls – Provided old manuscripts which were not significantly different from some newer.

The Canon – “Church leaders affirmed books and epistles that the Spirit was already using efficaciously among believers.”

Complete Equivalence – Exact words are translated.

Dynamic Equivalence – Ideas are translated.