

The Bible is the Word of God

The principles that apply to all studies, apply also to the study of the Bible. One must first accept that what you are studying is reliable and that it comes from a reliable source. The Bible is the word of God and that it comes to us by God's power, the power of the Holy Spirit.. It is only through a diligent search that we can find God's plan and that is only in the Bible.

To check the validity of the Bible, we must test it both against itself and against history.

First, the Bible's own testimony tells us the author of the Bible in 2 Peter 1:20-21

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

The Holy Ghost is normally read as Holy Spirit. It is God's power. (see pamphlet 8).

Now, to test the Bible against history, we can look at history and archaeology against the prophecies that have been foretold in the Bible and whether or not they have been fulfilled.

For instance, the water supply, which King Hezekiah built to supply Jerusalem in case of attack, is still in place today and can be viewed in Jerusalem, and there is an inscription in the tunnel testifying to the building of this tunnel. The Bible tells us of this achievement in 2 Kings 20:20

And the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and all his might, and how he made a pool, and a conduit, and brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

This is just one small way that archaeology has shown the Bible record to be accurate. There are many other events recorded in the Bible that show it to be historically accurate.

We can also look at Bible prophecy to test the Bible against history. One such prophecy can be tested throughout history. This prophecy occurred in the reign of king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon around 600 BC. This king had a dream one night, and demanded of his wise men to know its meaning. They could not figure it out. However, God gave a man named Daniel, the interpretation of the dream. He went to the king with God's message. This dream was a prophecy, and it showed a great image or statue. Its head was of gold, arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron and feet part of iron and part of clay. Daniel told the king that each metal represented a kingdom or empire. The head of gold represented that current empire of Babylon. Later in Daniel's life, in different visions, these succeeding empires were prophesied. He foretold that the following empire would be represented by silver and that the Medes and Persians would rule it.

History shows that the Medo-Persian Empire came to power following the reign of the Babylonians in 539 BC. The Greeks were the next great empire represented by brass, ruling from about 330 BC up until the Roman Empire came to power around 63 BC. Finally, the feet of the statue with iron and clay represents the present day, foretelling the present situation of a "*partly strong and partly broken*" empire. All these empires were prophesied back in 600 BC, and all have come about exactly as predicted. The final stage of king Nebuchadnezzar's dream showed a stone coming down and striking the statue, causing it to tumble. This part of the prophecy is yet to occur. This will be when Jesus Christ will return to the earth with power and "*shall consume all these kingdoms*" and set up his own which "*shall stand forever.*"

We can see then, from reading the Bible in light of archaeology and history, that the Bible is a true record, and that it can be only the work of God.

John 1:1: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*"

And: "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God ...That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The rest of the pamphlets in this series are all based on the facts that the Bible is the word of God and that it is wholly factual and infallible.