

Message Notes

Is the Bible reliable for my life?

Introduction – “B.Q.’s in the Bible”

1 Corinthians 7:1, 25, 8:1, 12:1, 16:1

Today’s Question:

Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?

Focus Passage: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Questions behind the question:

Where did our Bible come from?

Is it accurate?

What does the Bible claim about itself?

God’s inspiration of human authors

2 Timothy 3:16-17

1 Peter 1:19-21

Truthful, life-giving, and reflects God and his ways to us

Psalms 19

Effective and Powerful

Isaiah 55:10-11

Jesus’ Source of Truth and Life

John 17:15-19

God’s word is for us to be followed

James 1:22-25

Is it true? (Inerrancy debate)

Inerrancy Definition:

What inerrancy does not mean:

Recent Challenges to inerrancy:

How does the Bible change my life?

Gospel Application – *Where are you with God’s word?*

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1 Peter 1:19-21

¹⁹We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. ²¹For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 19:7-14

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. ⁹The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous. ¹⁰They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. ¹¹By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹²But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. ¹³Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Isaiah 55:10-11

¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

John 17:17

¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

James 1:22

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

For Further Study

The New Testament Documents

Reliable: Are they reliable?

F.F. Bruce

A good survey of the accuracy and credibility of the New Testament.

The Indestructible Book

Ken Connolly

A historical look at how the Scriptures have been both opposed and adored over the ages.

Getting the Message

Daniel Doriani

This work provides insight, guidance, and practical wisdom for studying the Scriptures.

What the Bible is All About

Henrietta Mears

A good book-by-book overview of the Bible.

The Book That Made Your World:

How the Bible Created the Soul of Western Civilization

Vishal Mangalwadi

Indian philosopher Vishal Mangalwadi reveals the personal motivation that fueled his own study of the Bible and systematically illustrates how its precepts became the framework for societal structure throughout the last millennium. From politics and science, to academia and technology, the Bible’s sacred text became the key that unlocked the Western mind.

Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Bible Doctrine

Wayne Grudem

Part One, (Chapters 2-8), offers a clear, robust and readable systematic theology of God’s word and the characteristics of the Bible.

The Origin of the Bible

edited by Philip Comfort

A good introduction to the authority and perfection of Scripture from a team of good theologians.

Christ and the Bible

John Wenhan

A very helpful survey of how Jesus Christ viewed the Old Testament.

The Canon of Scripture

F.F. Bruce

A thorough book on how the 66 books of the Protestant canon came to be.

From Ancient Text to Modern Translations

David Ewart

A helpful and thorough book surveying how the Bible went from the hands of the original authors to the Bible we hold in our hand today.

The image features a vibrant coral background with diagonal stripes in a lighter shade of coral. A large, teal speech bubble is centered on the left side, pointing downwards and to the left. Inside the speech bubble, the text "HEY! I HAVE A QUESTION!" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the words "Summer Sermon Series" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

**HEY!
I HAVE A
QUESTION!**

Summer Sermon Series

BIG



questions

Big Questions in Corinth

1 Corinthians 7:1

¹Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”

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1 Corinthians 7:1

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1 Corinthians 7:25

²⁵Now about virgins...

Big Questions in Corinth

1 Corinthians 7:1

¹Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”

1 Corinthians 7:25

²⁵Now about virgins...

1 Corinthians 8:1

Now about food sacrificed to idols...

Big Questions in Corinth

1 Corinthians 12:1

Now about the gifts of the Spirit...

Big Questions in Corinth

1 Corinthians 12:1

Now about the gifts of the Spirit...

1 Corinthians 16:1

Now about the collection for the Lord's people...

This week's question:

“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”

Focus Passage: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

B.Q.: *“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”*

Five Questions behind the question:

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Five Questions behind the question:

1. Where did our Bible come from?

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1. Where did our Bible come from?

2. Is it accurate?

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3. What does the Bible claim about itself?

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4. Is it true? (Inerrancy debate)

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Five Questions behind the question:

1. Where did our Bible come from?

2. Is it accurate?

3. What does the Bible claim about itself?

4. Is it true? (Inerrancy debate)

5. How, practically, can the Bible change my life?

B.Q.: *“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”*

1. Where did our Bible come from?



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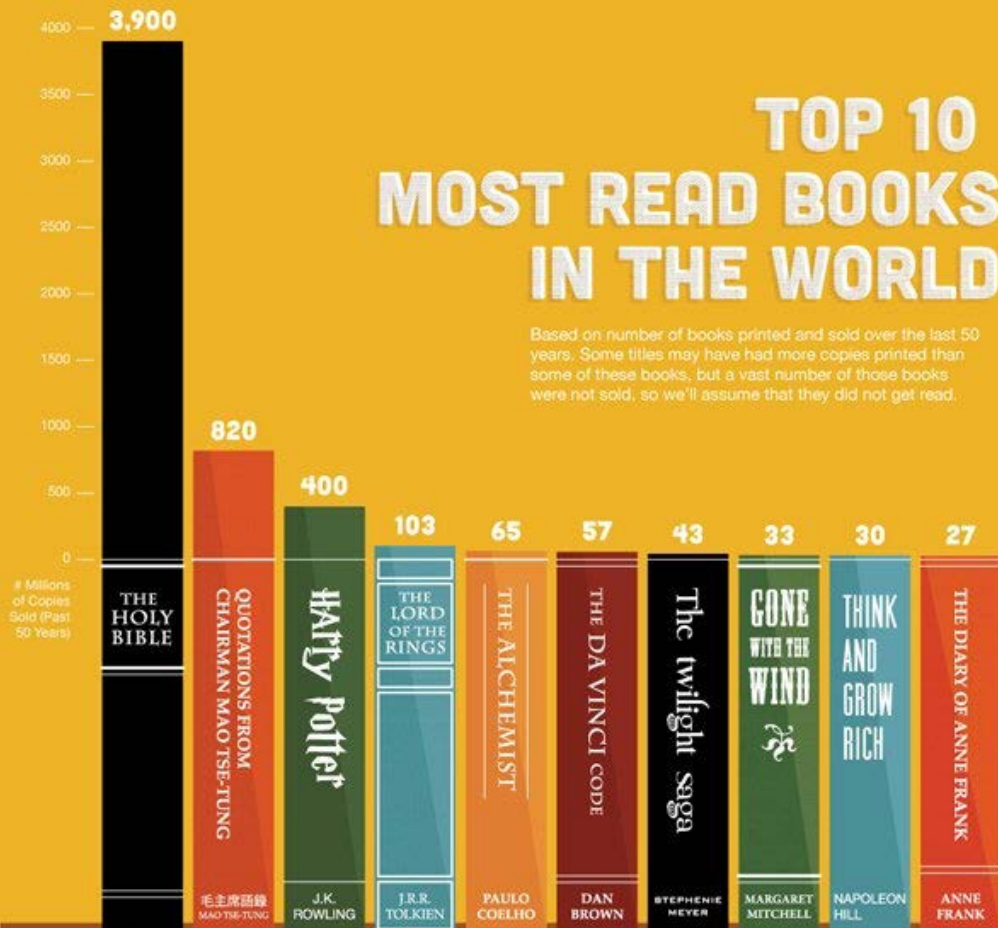
1. Where did our Bible come from?



- 66 Books (39 OT, 27 NT)
- Written by approx. 40 authors
- Diversity of authors (kings, fishermen, a tax collector, tent maker, etc.)
- Written over a period of 1600 yrs
- Best selling book and most read

TOP 10 MOST READ BOOKS IN THE WORLD

Based on number of books printed and sold over the last 50 years. Some titles may have had more copies printed than some of these books, but a vast number of those books were not sold, so we'll assume that they did not get read.



JAREDFANNING.COM

Source: squidoo.com/mostreadbooks



(3) *Other Explanatory Notes.* Footnotes of this kind provide clarifying information as illustrated by the following examples:

(a) Notes clarifying additional meanings that may not otherwise be apparent in the text, such as: "Leprosy was a term for several skin diseases; see Leviticus 13."

(b) Notes clarifying important grammatical points that would not otherwise be apparent in English, such as: "In Hebrew you is plural in verses 1-5" (see Gen. 3:1).

(c) Notes clarifying when the referent for a pronoun has been supplied in the English text, such as: "Greek he" (see, e.g., Mark 1:43).

(d) Notes giving English equivalents for weights, measures, and monetary values.

(4) *Technical Translation Notes.* Footnotes of this kind indicate how decisions have been made in the translation of difficult Hebrew and Greek passages. Such notes occasionally include technical terms. For an explanation of these terms the reader is referred to standard Bible study reference works. See further the section in the preface on "Special Issues" for an explanation of the original-language texts used in the translation of the ESV Bible and how the translation of difficult passages has been resolved.

CROSS-REFERENCE FOOTNOTES

In addition to the numeric (textual) footnotes, the New Testament portion of this edition of the ESV Bible includes two kinds of cross-reference notes. These are identified alphabetically and follow the numeric notes at the bottom of each page. These include (1) *direct quotations from the Old Testament* (indirect quotations and allusions are not included), and (2) *parallel passages in the four Gospels*. These cross-references are included to help the reader understand the relationship of the texts.

GENESIS

The

OLD TESTAMENT

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GENESIS

The OLD TESTAMENT

THE NEW TESTAMENT

OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR
JESUS CHRIST

TRANSLATED OUT OF THE
GREEK: AND WITH THE
DILIGENTLY COMPARED
STY'S

e godly. The coming of Elijah,
n, as a man spareth his own son
serveth him.
hall ye return, and discern
bteous and the wick-
serveth God

Where did the idea of a canon begin—the idea that the people of Israel should preserve a collection of written words from God? Scripture itself bears witness to the historical development of the canon. The earliest collection of written words of God was the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments thus form the beginning of the biblical canon. God himself wrote on two tablets of stone the words which he commanded his people:

“And he gave to Moses, when he had made an end of speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, *written with the finger of God*” (Ex. 31:18)...The tablets were deposited in the ark of the covenant (Deut. 10:5) and constituted the terms of the covenant between God and his people...



The content of the Old Testament canon continued to grow until the time of the end of the writing process. *If we date Haggai to 520 B.C., Zechariah to 520–518 B.C. (with perhaps more material added after 480 B.C.), and Malachi around 435 B.C., we have an idea of the approximate dates of the last Old Testament prophets. Roughly coinciding with this period are the last books of Old Testament history – Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. Ezra went to Jerusalem in 458 B.C., and Nehemiah was in Jerusalem from 445–433 B.C. Esther was written sometime after the death of Xerxes I (= Ahasuerus) in 465 B.C., and a date during the reign of Artaxerxes I (464–423 B.C.) is probable.*

Thus, after approximately 435 B.C. there were no further additions to the Old Testament canon. The subsequent history of

the Jewish people was recorded in other writings, such as the books of the Maccabees, but these writings were not thought worthy to be included with the collections of God's words from earlier years.



~ Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 54–56.

The development of the New Testament canon begins with the writings of the apostles. It should be remembered that the writing of Scripture primarily occurs in connection with God's great acts in redemptive history. ...The apostles, then, have authority to write words that are God's own words, equal in truth status and authority to the words of the Old Testament Scriptures. They do this to record, interpret, and apply to the lives of believers the great truths about the life, death, and resurrection of Christ...



Because the apostles, by virtue of their apostolic office, had authority to write words of Scripture, the authentic written teachings of the apostles were accepted by the early church as part of the canon of

Scripture. If we accept the arguments for the traditional views of authorship of the New Testament writings, then we have most of the New Testament in the canon because of direct authorship by the apostles. This would include Matthew; John; Romans to Philemon (all of the Pauline epistles); James, 1 and 2 Peter; 1, 2, and 3 John; and Revelation.

This leaves five books, Mark, Luke, Acts, Hebrews, and Jude, which were not written by apostles. The details of the historical process by which these books came to be counted as part of Scripture by the early church are scarce, but Mark, Luke, and Acts were commonly acknowledged very early, probably because of the close association of Mark with the apostle Peter, and



of Luke (the author of Luke-Acts) with the apostle Paul. Similarly, Jude apparently was accepted by virtue of the author's connection with James (see Jude 1) and the fact that he was the brother of Jesus...

The acceptance of Hebrews as canonical was not entirely due to a belief in Pauline authorship. Rather, the intrinsic qualities of the book itself must have finally convinced early readers, as they continue to convince believers today, that whoever its human author may have been, its ultimate author can only have been God himself. The majestic glory of Christ shines forth from the pages of the epistle to the Hebrews so brightly that no believer who reads it seriously should ever want to question its place in the canon.



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B.Q.: *“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”*

2. Is it accurate?

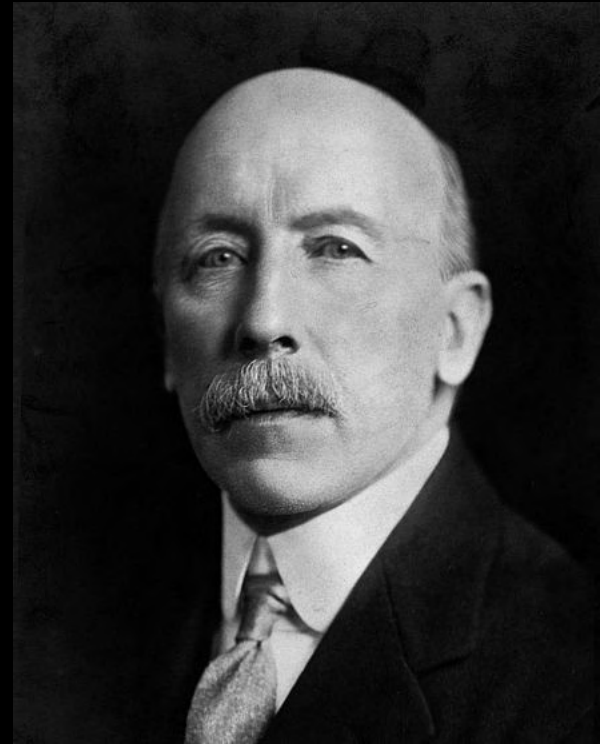
Lord Hubris' Ancient Manuscript Comparison (NT)

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approximate Time Span between original & copy	Number of Copies	Accuracy of Copies
Pliny	61-113 A.D.	850 A.D.	750 yrs	7	----
Plato	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200 yrs	7	----
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs	8	----
Suetonius	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 yrs	8	----
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs	8	----
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1300 yrs	9	----
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200 yrs	10	----
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1000 yrs	10	----
Tacitus	circa 100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1000 yrs	20	----
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1400 yrs	49	----
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1400 yrs	193	----
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
New Testament	1st Cent. A.D. (50-100 A.D.)	2nd Cent. A.D. (130 A.D.)	less than 100 years	5600	99.5%

The New Testament text ...is far better attested than that of any other work of ancient literature. It's problems and difficulties arise not from the deficiency of evidence, but from an excess of it. In the case of no work of Greek or Latin literature, do we possess manuscripts so plentiful in number, or so near the date of composition.

- Sir Frederick George Kenyon, Director and Head Librarian of the British Museum and appointed president of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem.

Quote taken from his book, *The Bible and Archaeology*



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3. What does the Bible claim about itself?

God's inspiration of human authors

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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Truthful, life-giving, and reflects God and his ways to us

Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ²Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. ³They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. ⁴Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. ⁵It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. ⁶It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.

Truthful, life-giving, and reflects God and his ways to us

Psalm 19

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. ⁹The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.

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Effective and Powerful

Isaiah 55:10-11

¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Jesus' Source of Truth and Life

John 17:15-19

¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

God's word is for us to be followed

James 1:22-25

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

B.Q.: *“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”*

4. Is it true? (Inerrancy debate)

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4. Is it true? (Inerrancy debate)

Inerrancy: The Bible does not confirm anything contrary to fact. Or, to state it positively, the Bible is infallible and without error in everything it teaches us.

B.Q.: *“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”*

4. Is it true? (Inerrancy debate)

What inerrancy does not mean:

B.Q.: *“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”*

4. Is it true? (Inerrancy debate)

What inerrancy does not mean:

1. That the Bible was simply “DICTATED” by God to us. It was inspired.

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4. Is it true? (Inerrancy debate)

What inerrancy does not mean:

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2. That we can give a scientific precision (21st C) to recorded history (pre-2nd C A.D.)

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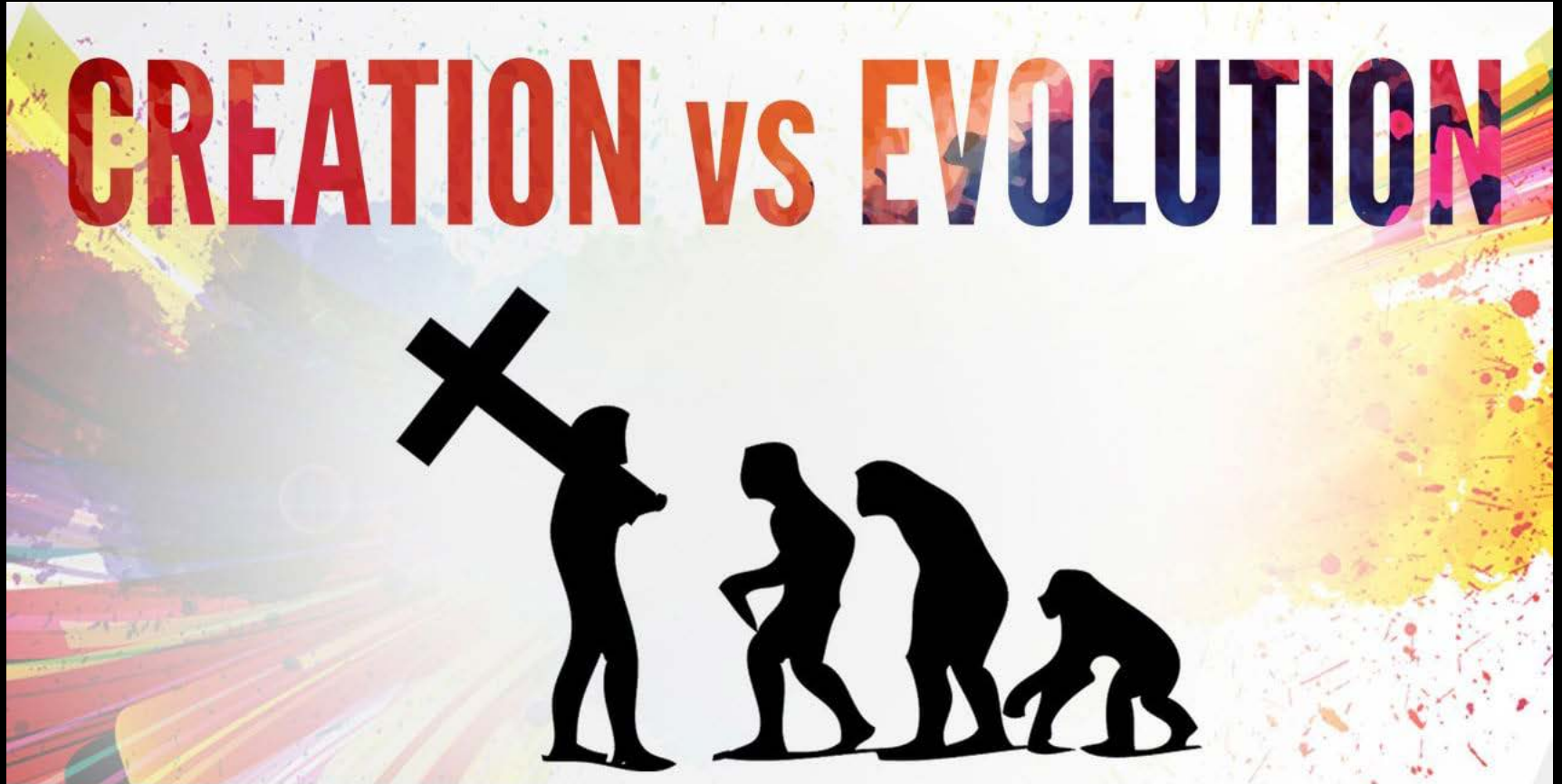
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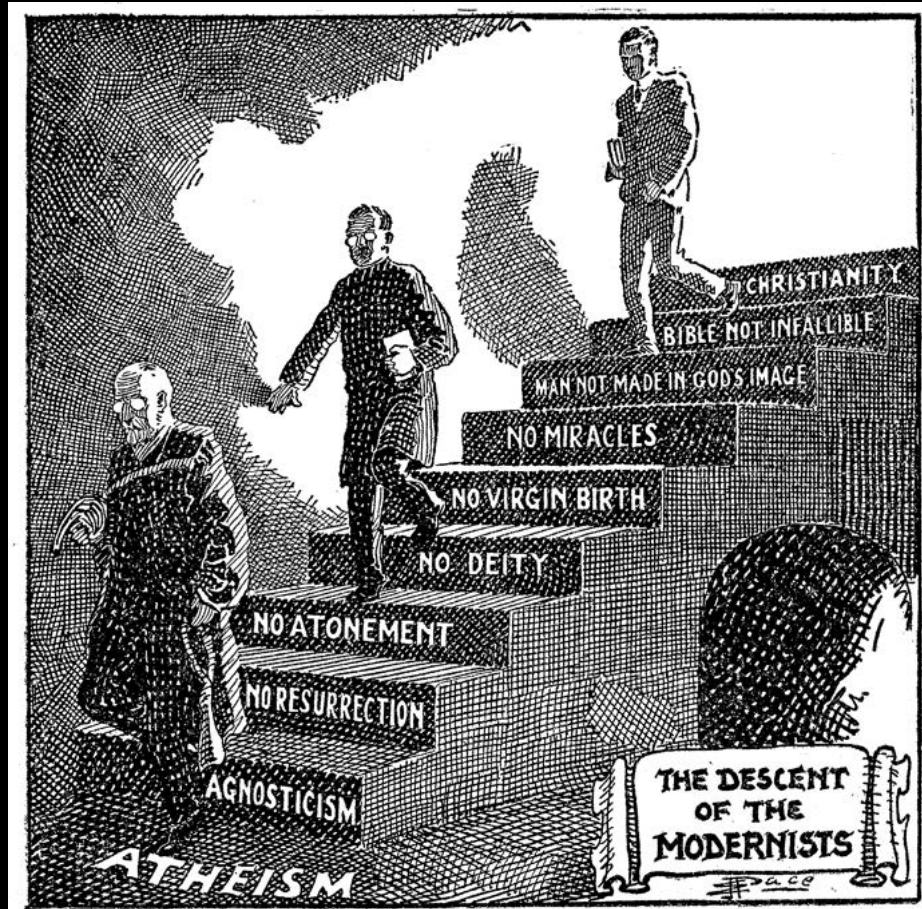
1. That the Bible was simply “DICTATED” by God to us. It was inspired.
2. That we can give a scientific precision (21st C) to recorded history (pre-2nd C A.D.)
3. That “contradictions” in accounts are in error. (Rooster crowing once in Matthew, Luke and John, 2x in Mark)
4. That poetry/prophecy must be taken “literally”. (Yes, it should be, as POETRY!)

Recent Challenges to inerrancy

Recent Challenges to inerrancy



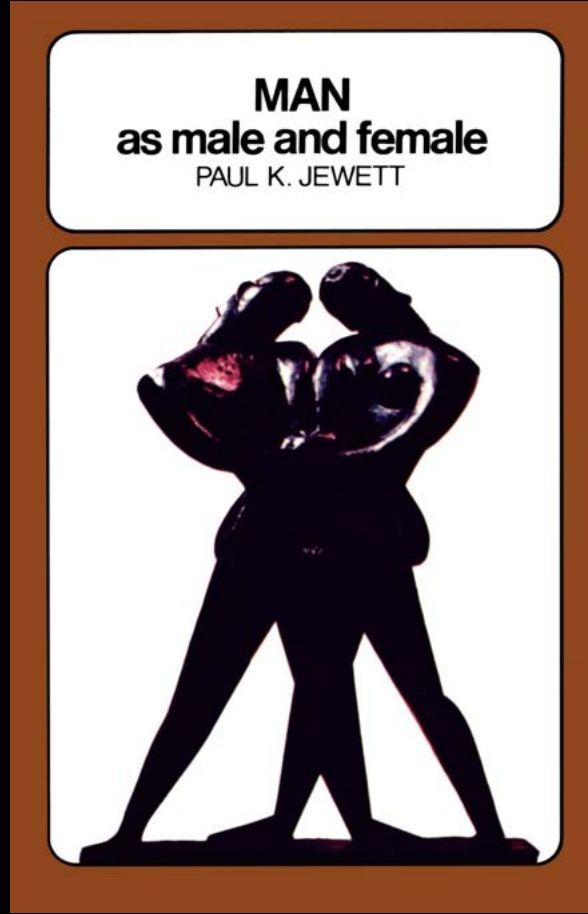
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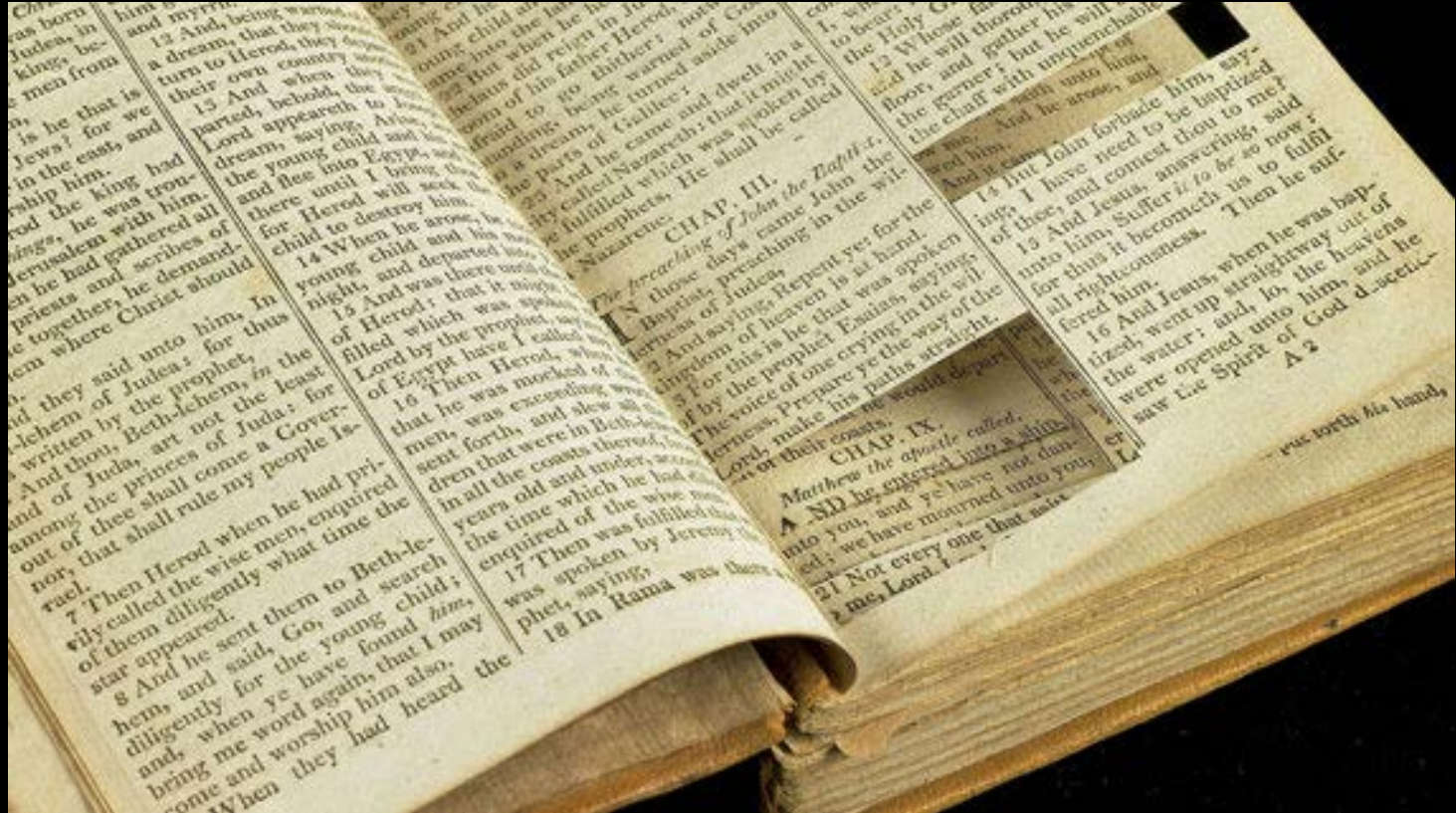
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Recent Challenges to inerrancy



Recent Challenges to inerrancy



B.Q.: *“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”*

5. How, practically, can the Bible change my life?



A Bible that's falling apart usually
belongs to someone who isn't.

-Charles Spurgeon



A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.

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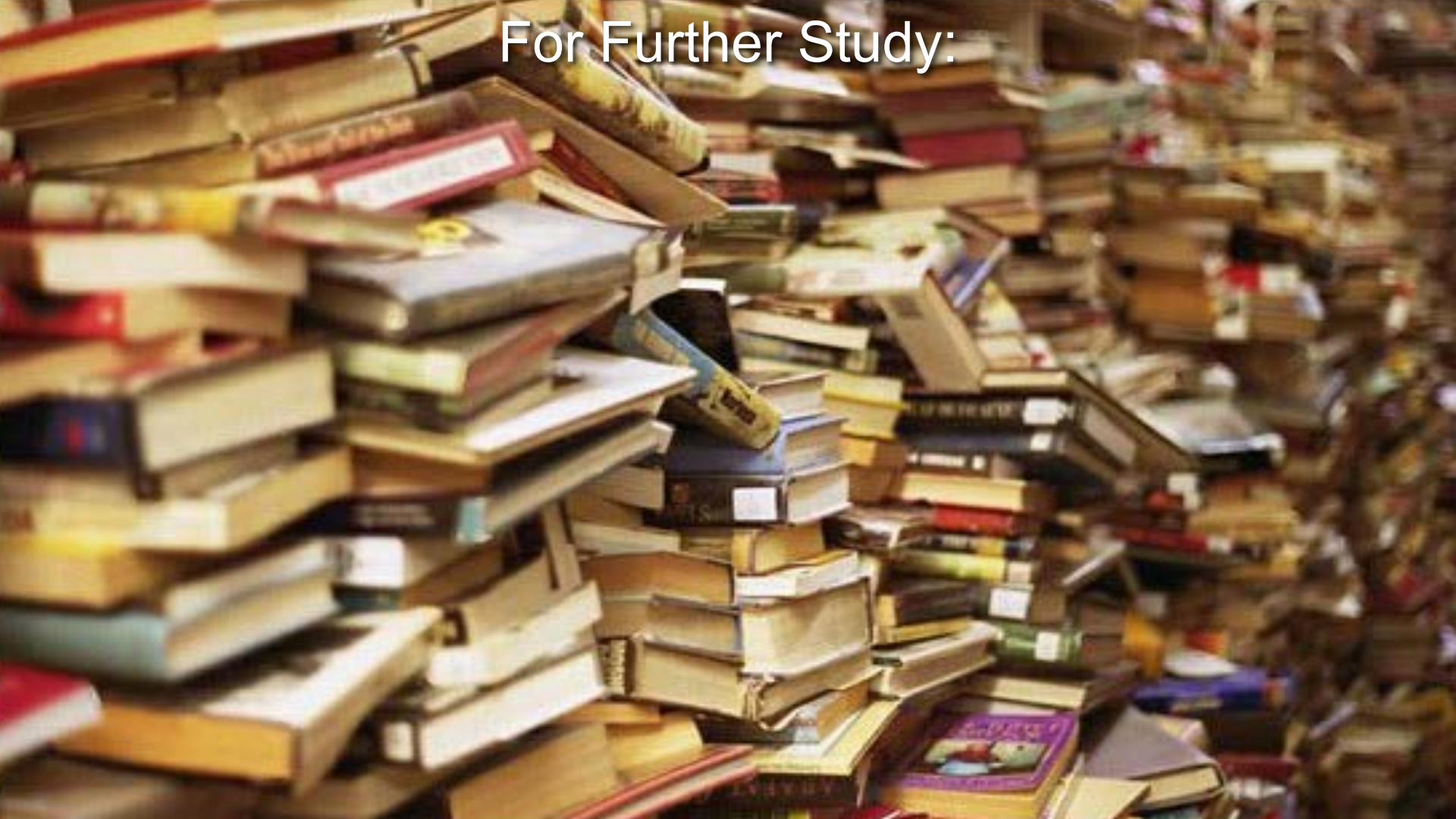


...unless the Bible is YouVersion.

- Anonymous



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What the Bible is All About, by Henrietta Means, is a good book-by-book overview of the Bible.

The Book That Made Your World: How the Bible Created the Soul of Western Civilization, by Vishal Mangalwadi. Indian philosopher Vishal Mangalwadi reveals the personal motivation that fueled his own study of the Bible and systematically illustrates how its precepts became the framework for societal structure throughout the last millennium. From politics and science, to academia and technology, the Bible's sacred text became the key that unlocked the Western mind.

Gospel Application

Gospel Application

Where are you with God's word?