

The Bible

Week 3: The Veracity of the Bible

Group Time

Ice Breaker

Prayer

Worship

Introduction

How do we support the reliability of the Bible? This week, Dr. Sean McDowell gave us three methods to support its truthfulness: “honesty of the writers,” “archeological corroboration” and “the telephone test of time.” In this discussion, we will briefly look at these methods and increase our understanding that leads us to a stronger faith. Please note that within our time constraints, we can only begin to touch on the evidence available.

Discussion Questions

1. Though briefly explored in week 1, we'll start this study with further testing the honesty of biblical writers. Read Acts 1:1-3 and 1 Corinthians 15:6. Verse 3 of Acts 1 says that Jesus provided “many convincing proofs” that he was no longer dead. **a.** What were those proofs? **b.** Based on this evidence, explain why or why not we can use it to determine whether the writers were telling the truth.
2. Now, let's look at some archaeological corroboration in the Old Testament. It is believed that Moses, educated as a prince of the Egyptian pharaoh,¹ wrote much or all of the first five books of the Bible. Specifically in the passage we'll look at, Moses quoted from the *Book of the Wars of the Lord*, a compilation of war and victory songs in which God is the hero. Read Numbers 21:14-15. What does this small passage tell us about the authors' writings as an archaeologist might look at it?
3. Have you ever played the telephone game? What happened? It's easy to have a breakdown of information over time. According to Sean McDowell this week, we have only seven manuscripts from Plato, compiled some 1200 years after his teachings; yet Plato's work is often quoted and widely accepted. We currently have 24,633 biblical manuscripts for the New Testament that were written not more than 50 years or so after Jesus' resurrection. **a.** How does this information support the veracity of the New Testament? Discuss. Read Deuteronomy 4:2 and 2 Kings 22:10-13. **b.** Based on these verses, what is God's view of the Bible and its accuracy?

¹ Jeremy Royal Howard, “The Origin, Transmission and Canonization of the Old Testament.” (*HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible*: 2010), 1:ivii.

4. In light of biblical accuracy and God's view of the Bible, read 1 Peter 3:15. **a.** Discuss its application for us. Read Acts 1:8. **b.** How is it possible for us to share the gospel with others?

Prayer/Ministry

Taking It Home

Going Deeper

Subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting "eDevotional" to 67076; or go to wolgroups.com and click on the eDevotional button.

Memory Verse

John 20:31: "But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."