

The Bible:

The Bible is the word commonly used to describe the books of the Old and New Testaments. It comes from the Greek word *biblos* which means book in English. So, the Bible is, literally; The Book of books.

Today as never before the Bible is under attack by un-believing “critical scholarship” spawned in our own Bible Colleges and Universities. In which Professor Smart with his twiddle DD spew forth foolishness in the name of higher education and secularism ... Isaiah taught that when the Messiah comes “the way” of truth would be so easy it would be like $2+2=4$... and a fool couldn’t miss-understand it ... you have to go to college and be taught unbelief.

Isaiah 35: 8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it [*shall be*] for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err [*therein*].

Go to a 30 minute Sunday School class and listen to the dumbing down of our Churches ... they read 3 verses and ask “how do you feel about that brother Jones?” Hermeneutics and exegesis are unknown words by our associate ministers ... and teachers. Instead Jude teaches cf:

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [*you*] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

But today we are taught don’t say something corrective you are liable to offend them or hurt their feelings and trample on their sensitivities. While “contend” in Jude 3 means argue-man-ize Greek epagonizamai struggle for, fight contend.

We will discuss the Transmission, Preservation, Canonization & Translation of Scriptures over the next few weeks ... but first I want you to know we have a God who speaks:

Hebrews 1:1-3 God, who at sundry times (many different times) and in divers manners (many a part ... here a little, there a little) spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [*his*] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of [*his*] glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

First let's have a little over view of the Bible.

The difference between the Old and New Testaments is shown in the book of Hebrews where it is taught that Christ brought into being a new and better Testament or covenant

Hebrews 7:22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

Hebrews 8:6-13 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. 7 For if that first [*covenant*] had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. 8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. 10 For this [*is*] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:⁴⁵ 11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. 13 In that he saith, A new [*covenant*], he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old [*is*] ready to vanish away.

Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions [*that were*] under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

The English word testament comes from the Latin word *testamentum* , meaning covenant. The Old Testament is divided into three groups of books. The Law which is the first five books of Moses known as the Torah and the Pent-a-teuch, which also means the five books. The Prophets, are a collection of twenty-one books which include the Major Prophets and Minor Old Testament Prophets. The Writings, which consist of the other thirteen books.

The New Testament consists of twenty-seven books that naturally divide into four parts: The four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles which is history, the Epistles

and the book of Revelation. The Epistles are twenty-one books that are primarily teaching or doctrine.

Of these, thirteen are known as the Pauline, Epistles written by the Apostle Paul.

There are eight Epistles called General Epistles written by other Apostles or Prophets.

Hebrews was written by an unknown writer and in the opinion of many learned men was written by the Apostle Paul. Who else with such knowledge and inspiration was in Rome wearing a chain at the time?

Hebrews 10:34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

The term "compassion of me in my bonds" found in the KJV is supported by no less an authority than the Codex Sinaiticus, along with other ancient manuscripts. Westcott noted that this expression is found nowhere else in the New Testament except as a reference by Paul himself to his own imprisonment. Since his name was "Mud" among the Jews you could expect Paul to not append his name to the book of Hebrews if he wanted any Jews to read and consider it with an open mind.

The Bible is a remarkable book. Its teachings are divinely inspired. Non-believers account for the Bible on natural rather than supernatural grounds. The doctrine of Inspiration asserts that the Bible revelation did not and could not originate in the mind of man. The Bible claims to be "inspired" meaning "God breathed" in the Greek ... so just as you hold your hand in front of your face and breath on it cf:

II Timothy 3:15-17 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture [*is*] given by inspiration of God, and [*is*] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works

The Bible claims Holy men of God "spake" as they were moved Greek word "carried along" by the Holy Spirit

II Peter 1:20-21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 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.

These verses teach the scriptures did not originate in the human mind. They are not a human product and cannot be accounted for on natural grounds.

The Bible contains things such as miracles that are contrary to ordinary human experience, but they are not contrary to reason. Given the being an all-powerful God ... miracles and the extraordinary are not contrary to human reason.

As an example, Noah's ark is reasonable for the task:

Genesis 6:12-17 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. 13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. 15 And this [*is the fashion*] which thou shalt make it [*of*]: The length of the ark [*shall be*] three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. 16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; [*with*] lower, second, and third [*stories*] shalt thou make it. 17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein [*is*] the breath of life, from under heaven; [*and*] everything that [*is*] in the earth shall die.

The instructions even included what it took to make the ark waterproof: "pitch" tar as it is commonly called. This type of evidence is called internal evidence as to the truth and trust-worthiness of the document its self.

The Ark is reasonable in its size and dimensions.

A cubit in the ancient world was 18 inches or a foot and a half making the dimensions of the ark: 450 foot long, the width 75 feet and the height 45 feet comprising 1,518,750 cubic feet ... which is the storage capacity equivalent to 1,000 freight train box cars. Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey circus came to town in 56 boxcars ... bringing all their tents, cages, concession stands, seats, trailers, ...

It is not that the Bible is different from other religions because man evolved in his thinking and became better. The concepts found in the Bible are so radically different from the societies of the ancient world that they are as different as night and day.

Abraham came from polytheistic Ur, one of the most ancient cities of Mesopotamia. Its ruins are approximately midway between the modern city of Baghdad, Iraq, and the head of the Persian Gulf, south of the Euphrates River, on the edge of the Desert. To the people of Ur man came into being growing up as grass, he was meant to work and toil in order to provide food, clothing, housing, and service for the gods, so that they, relieved of all manual labor, could live the life of a governing upper class. The King of Ur was considered godlike and lived as a landed nobility. In the scheme of existence man was thus never an end, always just a means. Woolley dug the Royal tombs of Ur and his crew found sixteen royal graves and the number of sacrificial victims the Kings took with them varied from a half a dozen to between seventy and eighty. The Kings were found at a lower level than their attendants, court and harem who were buried after drinking the hemlock in chambers grouped around the main tomb fully equipped with arms and jewelry. So Abraham did not bring monotheism with him from Ur of the Chaldees.

Moses came from polytheistic Egypt meaning many gods, the 10 plagues bringing about the Hebrew Exodus were against the false God's of Egypt.

Exodus 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I [*am*] the LORD.

The Egyptians worshiped:

Isis & Anuket was the personification and goddess of the Nile river in the Egyptian mythology and the Lord God showed the goddess of the Nile had no power over the Nile at all.

Hequet is Egyptian goddess of life, creation, childbirth and fertility. She often depicted as naked woman with the head of a frog or a frog at the end of the phallus. God having a sense of humor sent a multitude of frogs even up into their beds the scripture say.

The Apis Bull: From the First Dynasty the king is depicted in the form of a bull. it was housed in plush quarters, given only the best food, and provided with a harem of the best cows. The lucky animal would live in the lap of luxury until its death when it would be mummified and buried with full honors. God caused sores to break out on the Egyptian bulls only and not the Hebrews.

Ra was worshiped as the god who created everything. Also known as the Sun God, Ra was considered the most powerful deity and a central god of the Egyptians ... so the Lord God blacked out the sun for 3 days.

Finally the first born son was to perform the opening of the mouth ceremony at the death of his Pharaoh father so his ki could go to heaven.

From whence came the concept of one God and right and wrong - it wasn't from the Egyptians that Moses learned of YHWH the difference is nothing short of amazing.

Exodus 20:1-17 And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I [*am*] the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [*of any thing*] that [*is*] in heaven above, or that [*is*] in the earth beneath, or that [*is*] in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [*am*] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [*generation*] of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day [*is*] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [*in it*] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [*is*] within thy gates: 11 For [*in*] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [*is*], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. 12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. 13 Thou shalt not kill. 14 Thou shalt not commit adultery. 15 Thou shalt not steal. 16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. 17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his

manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that [is] thy neighbour's.

Where did this wisdom found only in the Bible come from ... when compared to the religion right across the river in Syria we can compare it to the writings from the Ugarit (/u:ge'ri:t, which was an ancient port city, the ruins are now called Ras Sham-ra in northern Syria. The documents in the archives recovered from the site and corroborated by My-cen-ae-an and Cyp-ri-ot pottery found there from 1450 BC down to 1,200 BC which is the exact time of the Exodus.

Their religion had numerous priests and priestesses with their ceremonies including the burning of incense and offering of children as innocent burnt sacrifice victims. The officiating priests danced around the altars, chanting frantically and cutting themselves with knives to inspire the attention and compassion of their gods ... Baal, Molech, Annuit and Bes were all Canaanite gods who thirsts for the blood of innocent victims.

But the Bible teaches at the same time in history cf:

Leviticus 18:20-25 Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour's wife, to defile thyself with her. 21 And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through [the fire] to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I [am] the LORD. 22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it [is] abomination. 23 Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it [is] confusion. 24 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: 25 And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.

I believe we can accurately predict what God will do in the future by paying attention to what he has done in the past ... history is our best lesson for our future survival. No nation in history has long survived the murder of children.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you [any one] that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, [or] that useth divination, [or] an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 12 For all that do these things [are] an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive

them out from before thee.13 Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. 14 For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so [to do].

It is not just that these closely related people are somewhat different, they are as different as night and day – wrong and right – wickedness and righteousness.

Later to Isaiah God will say about monotheism:

Isaiah 45:5 I [am] the LORD, and [there is] none else, [there is] no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me

Isaiah 45:20 Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye [that are] escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god [that] cannot save. 21 Tell ye, and bring [them] near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? [who] hath told it from that time? [have] not I the LORD? and [there is] no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; [there is] none beside me. 22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I [am] God, and [there is] none else. 23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth [in] righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

In ancient Babylon every woman from the Queen to the lowest slave was required to serve as a temple prostitute in the temple of Istar & Marduk and have sex with all "worshippers". While the Bible at the same time teaches cleanliness and holiness:

Ezekiel 44:23 "And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and the profane and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean."

Where did this spiritual knowledge come from? Man was completely unable to imagine such high conduct... men in history imagined their gods were like themselves. Read any of the Greek myths about Zeus, Poseidon, Apollo, Aphrodite, Hera & Athena of course today we know it is a total lie that a fallen Titan named Atlas holds the whole world on his back but the Greeks thought such foolishness was the highest learning, "classical literature and philosophy". The Romans were eager to identify their gods with the Greeks. At the same time God Himself became flesh

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

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

and taught

Matthew 5:1-13 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, 3 Blessed [are] the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed [are] they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed [are] the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed [are] they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed [are] the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed [are] the pure in heart: for they shall see God. 9 Blessed [are] the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. 10 Blessed [are] they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when [men] shall revile you, and persecute [you], and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great [is] your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. 13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Jesus taught Love enemies

Matthew 5:43-48 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more [than others]? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

The Greek writer Homer told how the mighty sky god Zeus cast thunderbolts on the earth and tumbled the walls of Troy with his earthquakes. The inhabitants of

Baalbek feared Baal. This God was their name for Zeus also known as Jupiter and Amon to the Egyptians. Humans were sacrificed in an attempt to pacify him and prevent huge destructive earthquakes. The Greeks and Romans believed by their actions they could control and manipulate the Gods.

It is not that the Bible is simply a better revelation than the Greeks or Roman religion in Jesus' day ... The truth is: the Bible is altogether true while the others are altogether false.

Sources: KJV, Coffman's commentary Google free pictures & Wikipedia,