

IV. Truths about the Bible: The Word of God...

1. The Bible is the "inspired" or "God-breathed," infallible Word of God!

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2. The Bible in its original manuscripts is without error!

John 10:35 - If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—

John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

3. Some Facts about the Bible...

The Bible is made up of 66 different books.

They were written over 1,600 years (from approximately 1500 B.C. to A.D. 100)

They were written over by more than 40 kings, prophets, leaders, and followers of Jesus.

The Old Testament has 39 books (written from approximately 1500-400 B.C.).

The New Testament has 27 books (written from approximately A.D. 45-100).

The Hebrew Bible has the same text as the English Bible's Old Testament, but divides and organizes it differently.

The Old Testament was written mainly in Hebrew, with some Aramaic and The New Testament was written in Koine Greek.

The books of the Bible were collected and arranged and recognized as inspired sacred authority by councils of rabbis and councils of church leaders based on careful guidelines.

Before the printing press was invented, the Bible was copied by hand.

The Bible was copied very accurately, in many cases by special scribes who developed intricate methods of counting words and letters to insure that no errors had been made.

The Bible was the first book ever printed on a printing press with movable type (Gutenberg Press, 1455, Latin Bible).

4. There is much evidence that the Bible we have today is remarkably true to the original writings.

Of the thousands of copies made by hand before A.D. 1500, more than 5,900 Greek manuscripts from the New Testament alone still exist today.

The text of the Bible is better preserved than the writings of Caesar, Plato, or Aristotle.

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls confirmed the astonishing reliability of some of the copies of the Old Testament made over the years.

Although some spelling variations exist, no variation affects basic Bible doctrines.

5. As the Bible was carried to other countries, it was translated into the common language of the people by scholars who wanted others to know God's Word.

By A.D. 200, the Bible was translated into seven languages;

By A.D. 500, 13 languages;

By A.D. 900, 17 languages;

By A.D. 1400, 28 languages;

By 1800, 57 languages; by 1900, 537 languages;

By 1980, 1,100 languages.

Today, thankfully; Bible translation is currently happening in 3,283 languages in 167 countries...

There are 7139 officially known languages in the world.

Around 1.5 billion people (1 in every 5 people) do not have the Bible in their language.

It is estimated that of the 8 billion people alive in the world today, 3.40 billion of them live in unreached people groups with little or no access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In America, Twenty-two percent read a little bit each day, in a systematic approach.

A third (35 percent) never pick it up at all, while 30 percent look up things in the Bible when they need to.

Nineteen percent re-read their favorite parts, while 17 percent flip open the Bible and read a passage at random.

A quarter (27 percent) read sections suggested by others, while 16 percent say they look things up to help others.

6. Jesus fulfilled hundreds of prophecies about Himself written in the Old Testament!

*He would be from the line of Jacob

Numbers 24:17— I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near:

a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.

*He would be born from the family of Jesse

Isaiah 11:1— There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

*He would be David's kingly heir

Jeremiah 23:5-6

5 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

*He would be born in Bethlehem

Micah 5:2— But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

*He would be immaculately conceived (born of a virgin)

Isaiah 7:14— Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

*He would be worshiped and given gifts at His birth

Psalm 72:10— May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

*A king would murder children in an attempt to kill Jesus

Jeremiah 31:15— Thus says the Lord: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more."

*The Messiah would be called a Nazarene

Isaiah 11:1- There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

Matthew 2:23 - And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

*He would speak in parables

Psalm 78:2-4

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,

3 things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.

4 We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

*He would be called a King

Zechariah 9:9 - Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Matthew 27:37 - And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

*He would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, and a potter's field would be bought with the money

Zechariah 11:12-13

12 Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver.

13 Then the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord, to the potter.

Luke 22:47-48

47 While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him,

48 but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Matthew 27:9-10

9 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the

price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel,
10 and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

*He would be silent when accused

Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

Mark 15:4-5

4 And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you."

5 But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

*He would be killed with criminals

Isaiah 53:12 - Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Matthew 27:3 - Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders,

*He would be a sacrifice for sin

Isaiah 53:4-6

4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Romans 5:6–8

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.