

SATAN'S FAVORITE LIES: LIE #5 The Bible Can't Be Trusted

THE ANCIENT LIE

Genesis 3:1-5

- The Bible has **changed radically** over time.
- The Bible constantly **contradicts itself**.
- The Bible is open to **any interpretation**.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BIBLE

It Is **Textually** Accurate.

Book	Date Written	Earliest Copies	Time Gap	No. of Copies
<i>Iliad</i> - Homer	800 B.C.	400 B.C.	400 yrs	643
Plato	400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	7
<i>Gallic Wars</i> Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1000 yrs	10
<i>History of Rome</i> Livy	59 B.C. 17 A.D.	4 th Century 10 th Century	400 yrs 1000 yrs	1 partial 19
New Testament	50-100 A.D.	A.D. 130	50 yrs	Fragments
		A.D. 200	100 yrs	Books
		A.D. 250	150 yrs	N.T.
		A.D. 325	225 yrs	5,600
		A.D. 400-500	400 yrs	24,600

It Is **Archaeologically** Accurate.

It *Is* God's Word, **Preserved** By God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, Matthew 5:18, Matthew 24:35, Luke 16:17

THE KEYS TO READING THE BIBLE

- Remember it is a **library, not a book**.
- Read it like **any other book**.
- Treat it as **God's Word**.

Food for Thought

For the week of July 13, 2008
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Because the Bible is God's communication to us, we can expect it to have more impact in the lives of people than any other book ever written. In several places, the Bible uses various metaphors to explain the impact it can have on people's lives. Read each of the following verses and identify the metaphor used to describe the Bible.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. [NIV]

Jeremiah 23:29

"Is not my word like fire," declares the Lord, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" [NIV]

James 1:23

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror [NIV]

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path. [NIV]

What is each metaphor communicating about how the Bible can impact people's lives?

How have you seen each metaphor at work in your life?

2. In Jesus' day nobody questioned the reliability of the Bible. However, some religious leaders were undermining its authority by placing their cultural teachings and man-made rules on par with it. Read Mark 7:1-13 to see how Jesus addresses this issue. What does he say are some of the results of elevating tradition and man-made rules to the level of the Bible?

Mark 7:1-13

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and [2] saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. [3] (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. [4] When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

[5] So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?"

[6] He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

" 'These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
[7] They worship me in vain;
their teachings are but rules taught by men.'

[8] You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men."

[9] And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! [10] For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' [11] But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God), [12] then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. [13] Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that." [NIV]

As you look at your own life, are there any areas where you've allowed some tradition or man-made rule to have as much authority as the Bible?

3. God gave us the Bible not only to read and listen to, but also to apply to our lives. What insights do you see in the following passages that help you get to know the Bible better and apply it more consistently in your life?

Joshua 1:6-9

"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. [7] Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. [8] Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. [9] Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." [NIV]

Deuteronomy 4:1-2

Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. [2] Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you. [NIV]

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, [2] so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. [3] Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, promised you.

[4] Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. [5] Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. [6] These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. [7] Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. [8] Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. [9] Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. [NIV]

4. Take a moment to evaluate the level of attention you've been giving the Bible. Are there any changes you need to make in order to learn more about the Bible or to apply more of what you already know?