



The Authority and Truth of God's Word for the Whole of Life

***Do you really believe that God's Word is
really true?***

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Overview

- What is Truth and Who Defines Truth?
- Some Historical Background on God's Word
- How We Know God's Word is True and Authoritative
- How Then Shall We Live?
- Small Group Processing Questions



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What is Truth and Who Defines It?

The World's Viewpoint

- God's Viewpoint
 - I AM the Great I AM
 - I always have been, am now, and always will be
 - I am all-powerful, everywhere, and all-knowing
 - I define truth
 - I make the rules
 - What I say matters
 - And I love you ...



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God's Word: Historical Background

- Written over a period of appx **1600 years** (first OT books written around 1500 BC and last book of OT, written around 95 AD)
- Divinely inspired** to be written by **more than 40 authors** including kings, peasants, fisherman, poets, political leaders, philosophers, scholars, prophets, and scribes
- Written in **varieties of geographic locations** representing the greatest of ancient cultures
- Written in times of war, peace, prosperity, and societal collapse in such a way as to **convey the widest range of human emotions, experiences, and shortcomings and the faithfulness of God throughout**
- Written on three continents comprising both eastern and western civilization
- Written in **three languages**: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek



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God's Word: Historical Background

Although it includes hundreds of topics, it has a constant unifying theme from Genesis to Revelation: **God's rescue of the human race through His Son Jesus Christ**

No book in history begins to compare in influence with the Bible. **More copies have been printed and circulated more than any other book in the world**

The Bible has been **translated more than any other book**. There are approximately 6809 languages in the world, and many more dialects. By the end of 2002, there were 392 languages that had complete translations of the Bible, another 1012 that had translations of the New Testament, and another 883 with at least a portion of scripture translated (2287 total). **More translations still needed since currently 340 Million people in world don't have God's Word in their own language out of current 6.9 B+**



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God's Word: Historical Background

Gospel	Date (appx)	Source
Mark	AD 65	Peter, written by Mark
Matthew	AD 75	Matthew
Luke	AD 75	Luke, a companion of Paul
John	AD 90	John



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God's Word: Historical Background

- Gospel of Mark is from eyewitness testimony of Peter by God's inspiration; preserved in written form by his translator Mark
- Gospel of Matthew was written by Matthew by God's inspiration, an eyewitness former tax collector who deserted a profitable profession to follow Jesus
- Luke's Gospel documents multiple eyewitness testimonies, gathered by Paul's personal physician, Luke, by God's inspiration
- The Gospel of John was written by God's inspiration by the beloved Apostle John, an eyewitness, written latest to counter attacks on the Gospel of Jesus



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Comparison with Other Historical Documents

Works of Plato	God's New Testament
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written around 400 BC• Only 7 copies have survived• The earliest surviving manuscript was copied between AD 800 and 900 – more than 1200 years after the original documents were written	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written between AD 60 and 100• 5,700+ portions/manuscripts have survived• Complete manuscripts of the NT have survived from the late third or early fourth centuries – less than three centuries after the original documents were written• Hundred of fragments and manuscripts have survived from the second, third, and fourth centuries• After minor spelling errors and slight variations in word order are factored out (from scribes), there is more than 99% agreement between all known manuscripts of the Bible! Of the remaining variants, none affects any crucial element of the Christian faith.

Which One Would You Trust More??



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How We Can Know

God's Word has **authority** in our lives and we can depend on His Word for **all truth because ...**

- It is **inspired by God** (II Timothy 3:14-17, II Peter 1:16-24)

- It **endures forever** (Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 24:35)

- It is **THE standard for truth** (John 14:6, John 17:17)

- It was **verified and validated by Jesus** (Luke 24:44) and the prophets

- It is **consistent with objective facts** internally and in human history

- It proves true from our own subjective **personal experience** and countless others

But ultimately, **we must choose to believe by faith ...**



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How Then Shall We Live? A Story of Two Men



**Billy Graham (1918
– Present)**



**Charles Templeton
(1915 – 2001)**



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How Then Shall We Live?

- Choose to believe by faith ... you'll never be the same
- Read and know God's Word
- Meditate on God's Word (Prayerfully Think with Purpose)
- Submit to God's Word and Do what It Says
- Use God's Word
- Share God's Word with Others



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Small Group Processing Questions

1. Why does it matter that God's Word has both authority in my life and that it can be trusted as truth? Does this make a difference in how I live life and how I help others? Why?
2. Do you ever find yourself believing something, not because you have external evidence for it, but simply because it is written in Scripture? Is that proper faith according to Hebrews 11:1? Do you think that trusting and obeying everything that Scripture affirms will ever lead you into sin or away from God's blessing in your life?



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Back Up Slides



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What God Says about the Authority & Truth of His Word

From the Old Testament through Revelation, **the LORD points out His authority** as He speaks in His Word (“Lord” means authority): In Isaiah 38:5, among others, when God tells Isaiah to speak to King Hezekiah, He says **“thus saith the Lord”** (KJV) ... In Rev 1:8, God says, **“I am the Alpha and the Omega,”** says the Lord God, **“who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”** **There is no more time-transcending authority than this!!** And He backs it up with power shown through the ages!

Regarding truth, **Jesus (God the Son)** said: **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.** (John 14:6). In the Gospel of Matthew alone, Jesus says **“I tell you the truth”** 30 times! And when on trial by Roman Governor Pilate, Jesus said: **“You are right in saying, ‘I am King.’ In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me (John 18:37)”**



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Some Other Key Passages on Authority and Truth of God's Word

“But as for you, **continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of**, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy **you have known the Holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**” (2 Timothy 3:14-17)



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Some Other Key Passages on Authority and Truth of God's Word (cont.)

“For we **did not follow cleverly devised stories** when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but **we were eyewitnesses of His majesty**. He received honor and glory from God the Father **when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory**, saying, ‘This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.’ We **ourselves heard** this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain. We **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. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For 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.** (2 Peter 1:16-24 with reference to what he saw on the Mount of Transfiguration, Matthew 17:1-13)”



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Some Other Key Passages on Authority & Truth of God's Word (cont.)

“He (Jesus) said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: **Everything must be fulfilled** that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” (Luke 24:44)

“The law of the LORD is **perfect**, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are **trustworthy**, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are **right**, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are **radiant**, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are **firm**, and **all of them are righteous**. They are **more precious** than gold, than much pure gold; they are **sweeter than honey**, than honey from the honeycomb. By them your servant is **warned**; in keeping them there is **great reward**.” (Psalm 119:7-11)



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Some Other Key Passages on Authority & Truth of God's Word (cont.)

- “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God **endures forever.**” (Isaiah 40:8)
- “Heaven and earth will pass away, but **My words will never pass away.**” (Matthew 24:35)



Do you really believe that God's Word is really true?

How We Can Know God's Word is True and Authoritative

1. Objective Facts

- **The Bible is consistent with itself**
- “In the Old Testament, Christ is predicted ... in the Gospels, Christ is presented ... in the Book of Acts, Christ is preached ... in the Epistles, Christ is explained ... and in the Book of Revelation, Christ is expected” (Bible Teacher Alistair Begg)
- The Old Testament includes about sixty different prophecies, with more than 300 references, of the coming of the His Son Jesus Christ, our Savior, Lord, and Messiah. All except those regarding the 2nd coming have been fulfilled!



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How We Can Know God's Word is True and Authoritative

1. Objective Facts

• **The Bible's events are consistent with human history** (many consistent examples)

• Joseph said: "Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land." (Gen. 41:29-30)
... "The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end, and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food." (Gen. 41:53-54)

• "During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul." (Acts 11:27-30, among many others!)



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How We Can Know God's Word is True and Authoritative

2. Subjective Personal Experience

It is not the Bible which saves us ... Jesus Christ saves us. But the Bible helps to lead us to Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit

“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God.” (2 Cor. 1:21)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Cor 5:17)



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How We Can Know God's Word is True and Authoritative

2. Subjective Personal Experience

The Bible points out our errors and sins and shows us how we need forgiveness and life change

“For the word of God is alive 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. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” (Hebrews 4:12-13)

“ ... being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil 1:6)



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How We Can Know God's Word is True and Authoritative

2. Subjective Personal Experience (Cont.)

God's Word equips us for every good work, and there is power in God's divinely-inspired, inerrant Word.

“ ... so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:17)

As we live a life of faith, It makes sense as we live life ...



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How We Can Know God's Word is True and Authoritative

2. Subjective Personal Experience (Cont.)

Life Change Proof: The evidence of the life change of the Eleven Disciples, Paul the Apostle, others, and ourselves ...

After being fearful at Jesus' crucifixion, scattering, and then seeing Jesus after He rose again, tradition says that all of the disciples, except John (who was still exiled and persecuted for His faith), were martyred for their faith. People don't knowingly die for a lie!!!

Paul was transformed from persecutor of the church to the greatest missionary of all time (in my humble opinion). He served Jesus until his dying breath

God's Word has transformed the lives of countless numbers of people throughout history

God's Word has transformed me and you



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