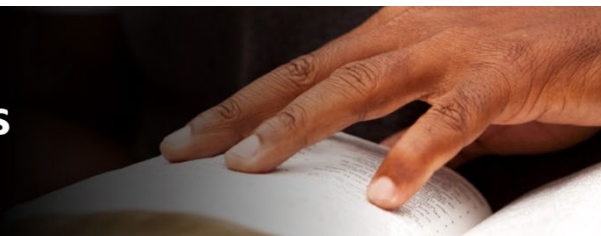


Biblical Apologetics

How do we know it's true?



Class 5, Wednesday, February 8, 2023

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander." (1 Peter 3:15-16, NIV)

Today's Question: Is the Bible Myth or History?

We didn't start here because using the Bible to prove God is circular. "The Bible says there is a God" and "The Bible is true because God wrote it" is a circular argument. Using 2 Timothy 3:16-17 to prove God wrote the Bible starts with the belief that God wrote 2 Timothy; non-believers don't believe that. But nonbelievers also use circular logic: "I don't believe in miracles because the Bible is a myth." And "The Bible is a myth because it contains unbelievable miracles."

Once a person is open to the reality of a God, they may be open to the Bible. We learned about General Revelation last week—what can be learned about God from nature, science, and philosophy. We also believe in *Specific Revelation*, that God spoke to us in the Bible. So we must be able to answer, "Is the Bible a myth or history?"

Why Don't People Believe the Bible is From God?

We must know why people don't believe the Bible to answer them:

1. **Many have a p_____ motive** to disbelieve. It's moral; not intellectual. Addicts to things the Bible condemns *don't want* to believe. Addiction to power, lust, greed, popularity, and even freedom offer moral reasons for refusal to believe. In other words, the real enemy is s_____.

2. **Many disbelieve because of m_____.** Clearly, any book on the supernatural includes the supernatural.
3. **Many disbelieve due to c_____:**
 - a. **With s_____.** This may be our own fault. We incorrectly use the Bible as a science book. It's not!
 - b. **With h_____.** Disbelievers don't accept the Bible as true and then won't use the Bible as history. This is not good historical methodology. The Bible is a *primary* source of history and has more *secondary* sources (especially the NT) than any ancient text!
 - c. **With a_____.** Whenever archaeology and the Bible overlap, either (1) Bible claims are proven, (2) Bible claims are probable, or (3) it can't be proven. Nothing Biblical has been disproven by archaeology.
 - d. **With i_____.** Many point to internal contradictions, but they don't apply the same standards to the Bible that they do to other literature. There are many examples:
 - i. OT numbers of people aren't consistent.
 - ii. Stories give different details. Was there one angel at the empty tomb or two?
 - iii. Different causes are given for an event. Did God part the water of the Red Sea or a wind?
 - iv. Is God a just God who punishes the wicked or a merciful God who forgives sin?

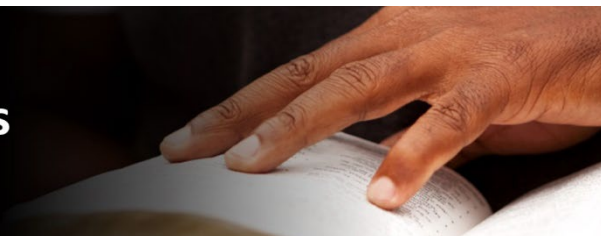
More Study:

Handbook of Christian Apologetics: Hundreds of Answers to Crucial Questions, by Peter Kreeft and Ronald K. Tacelli. (*A study book which I have used extensively in preparing for this class.*)

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