

REVIEW:

Week 1 - There is objective truth that we can verify by observing evidences

Week 2 – The Universe gives a place – a crime scene - to investigate is there a God

Week 3 – The eyewitness accounts and corroborating evidence, when tested points to the truth of Jesus.

This week: How did we get our bible? How can I trust it?

- Called the cannon of scripture –the list of approved books – the ruler
- Only eyewitnesses and those confirmed by the eyewitnesses were allowed in scripture
- The early church would not allow additions or subtractions
- The early church had been warned by the apostles so they were vigilant
- The gnostic gospels –or extra canonical books were excluded not because they didn’t have miracles but because they did – too many that supported false teachings

Matthew 24:10–14 (NIV) — 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, **11** and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. **12** Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, **13** but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. **14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Galatians 1:6–8 (NIV)

Jude 3–5 (NIV)

Now that we have established the historicity of Jesus and the reliability of the New Testament writers

What about the Old Testament? What did Jesus say?

1. Jesus and Old Testament - Jesus answered spiritual questions with the Old Testament.

Matthew 19:3–6 (NIV) — 3 Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?” **4** “Haven’t you read, (Genesis 1:27)” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ **5** and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? **6** So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Matthew 22:23–32 (NIV)

2. Jesus and His own words and the words of the new testament writers

John 14:8–11 (NIV)

John 12:48–50 (NIV) — 48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. **49** For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. **50** I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

Hebrews 1:1–3 (NIV) — **1** In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. **3** The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

3. Jesus’ story and words in the future through the Apostles –

- **His words would not pass away**

Matthew 24:35 (NIV) — **35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

- **Jesus said the Holy Spirit would speak through the Apostles.**

John 14:26 (NIV) — **26** But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

2 Peter 1:20–21 (NIV) — **20** Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. **21** 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.

Practical – what do I do with this?

- **Respond to Jesus**
- **Read the Word. Know what it says; live what it says**
- **Know what I believe and why I believe it.**
- **Learn to share the reasons to believe with those who have questions.**

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT AND DISCUSS:

Passages to consider: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:16-21

1. *Icebreaker:* What is your favorite book or movie or Netflix binge?
2. What was helpful to you from the sermon? What is standing out to you from this series?
3. What challenges or questions have you or others had about the Bible?
4. Read 2 Peter 1:16-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17 What do these passages tell us about what makes the Bible unique from other writings?
5. What role does the Bible have in your own life? Or what has helped you believe the reliability of the Bible?
6. If someone was challenging whether the Bible could be trusted how would you help them in their discovery process?

Passages to prepare for next week: - Contagious Week 5

This week read: 1 Corinthians 15; 1 Peter 3:15,16

As you read ask yourself these questions:

- What is the passage saying about God, human beings, the world?
- What do I learn about myself from this passage?
- What adjustment does this require of me in my thinking, believing, and doing?

Resources: Listen to Jim Putman’s daily devotion on Facebook or Youtube.

- *J. Warner Wallace on RightNow Media*