

Studying God's Word

No one can know the word of God without reading it. We are not born knowing there are sixty-six books in the Bible. Nor do we know that the Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments. The only way we gain that knowledge is either by reading it ourselves and or others teaching us.

Paul told the Ephesians that they could read the inspired writings and understand the will of the Lord, "when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (Ephesians 3:4). "Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Ephesians 5:17).

The Bible claims to be the inspired Word of God, 2 Timothy 3:16. The harmony of the scriptures tell us that no person or persons authored the Bible. Consider these facts. The scriptures were written over a period roughly 1600 years. It covers around 4000 years of history. Over forty inspired men wrote the Lord's words down. Most of these men did not know each other or know what each other wrote. Yet the different books harmonize with each other. There are no contradictions or errors. If the Bible contained them, we could doubt it's inspiration.

Secondly, the prophecies of the Bible foresaw events years ahead of their time. They spoke plainly and in great detail. We not only can understand the prophecies, but we also can see their fulfillment.

Finally, the scientific and historical accuracy of the Bible:

- 1) The earth is round, (Isaiah 40:22)
- 2) There are currents and streams in the sea, (Psalms 8:8}
- 3) The earth hangs on nothing, (Job 26:7)
- 4) All mankind has the same blood, (Acts 17:26)
- 5) The blood of animals carries diseases (Leviticus 17)

Many of these facts we readily accept today as common knowledge. During the days of Job, Moses, Paul, etc., these facts were contrary to the knowledge. They thought the world was flat, that the bloods of races are different, Atlas held the earth on his shoulders and the list goes on.

Historians have questioned a number of events and the existence of nations spoken

about in the Bible. They claimed that the Hittite nation did not exist until archaeologists discovered their geographic location and culture.

As the excavation was done on the pyramids, they discovered an amazing fact. Some of the bricks were different. The bricks at the bottom contained more straw than those at the top. First, they thought this had something to do with the Egyptian techniques of construction. However, someone read the Bible and read Exodus 1:11; 5:10-18. As Pharaoh built Pithon and Raamses, he also punished the Hebrew by making them gather their own straw then making them without straw.

No one historical or scientific fact stated in the Bible has been proven wrong.

We are left with two choices, 1) To accept the Bible as the word of God based upon evidences, or 2) To reject the Bible as the word of God contrary to the evidences.

If we accept the Bible and its inspiration, we are then left with two more choices, 1) To read and study it so as to understand the will of God or 2) To ignore it and be totally ignorant of God's will. I would suggest that the first choice is the only logical one to make.

Since the Bible is God's message to us, we must make the effort to "rightly divide" the word of God. 2 Timothy 2: 15. - - Dennis Tucker