

Confirming the Bible

Introduction

In the next few lessons, we will examine what is called “Christian Evidences.” Christian Evidences is a study of internal and external support that confirms the Bible as the word of God. How can we know the Bible is the word of God? Is it because we say it is? Is it because it has been around for hundreds of years? Is it because millions of people follow it? If these things serve as proof, then what about the Quran, or the Hindu scriptures? The difference in the Bible and these other so-called holy books is that the Bible can prove itself to be the word of God.

- I. To determine whether something is true, we look for evidence.
 - Confirmation. Is there external support?
 - Reason. Does the confirmation ring as reasonable?
 - Harmony. Are there contradictions and conflicts?

- II. External Support – Archaeology and Exploration
 - A. The Old Testament gives geographical locations, nations, and people.
 - Euphrates and Tigris Rivers
 - Table of nations in Genesis 10
 - Tower of Babel
 - Cities of Ur and Haran
 - Hittite Empire found in 1834 by a Frenchman
 - Egypt and the Israelites
 - Joseph, Moses, and the Exodus
 - Hebrews (Hapiru)
 - Jericho
 - Giants and fortified cities in Canaan
 - House of David reference found in 1993
 - Sennacherib’s Prism

 - B. The New Testament gives geographical locations, nations, and people
 - Jews and Romans
 - Nations in Acts 2

Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem
Pilate, Caiaphas, Jesus
Crucifixion of Jesus
Peter, Paul, and the apostles
Greek cities and culture
Luke regarded as the quintessential ancient historian

III. Is the historical narrative reasonable?

- A. The historical and geographical details in the Old Testament covering a span of 1,400 years is accurate in every way.
- B. The narrative lines up in a reasonable and chronological format.
Noah to Abraham
Isaac to Moses
Joshua to Samuel
David to Jeremiah
Daniel to Ezra
Nehemiah to Malachi
- C. Every period of time and historical person is accurate in its historical context.

IV. Contradictions and conflicts

- A. Islamic scholars list 101 contradictions in the Bible.
A rule for alleged contradictions: If the alleged contradiction varies from another text, but does not alter an eternal truth regarding God, Jesus, or his claims, it is a variant without consequence.
- B. Most alleged contradictions are solved by “rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- C. One half of one percent of the Bible contains variants that in no way compromises our eternal destiny.
- D. The New Testament has an accuracy of 99.5 percent text of the original New Testament. The alleged contradictions have been harmonized successfully.

Conclusion

The three things that evidence needs are external support, reason, and harmony. All three provide sufficient support. In the next lesson, we will look at the inspiration of the Bible.