

## What Every Christian Ought to Know - Adrian Rogers

### The Bible is the Word of God - Chapter 1

“Man has only three problems, sin, sorrow and death. . . Every other problem in the world is indeed just a subset of sin, sorrow and death and the Bible is the *only book on earth* that has the answer to all three conditions.” (Rogers)

According to Adrian Rogers, the Bible is important because:

- a. Your salvation depends on understanding the gospel message of the Bible
- b. Your assurance depends on resting in the truth of the Bible.
- c. Your spiritual growth depends on living by the principles of the Bible.
- d. Your power in witness depends on your confidence in the Word of God.

The Bible is the Word of God because of Scientific Accuracy

Too often we use other sources to prove the accuracy of the Bible but we should prove the accuracy of other sources with the Bible. Science is changeable based on what scientists discover. The Word of God is unchangeable because God is unchangeable.

As a scientist, I have always defined science as man trying to discover what God already knows. He is the creator, so no human knows as much as God. He was there in the beginning and knows it was not a “big bang” that started everything. Ask any scientist what holds the earth in space, spinning on its axis or ask what keeps us from floating off the earth, he will give you an explanation that includes an unexplained force of attraction between the earth and the sun and us and the earth. They really can’t give you the source of the force. The Bible can, it is God. Read Job 26:7.

The Bible is the Word of God because of Historical Accuracy.

Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy that “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*” (2 Timothy 3:16-17) Since the beginning of time, God has been present with His people and He was in control of the circumstances in history. So the reported history of God’s word must be accurate.

Throughout history, man believed that the world was flat. They believed if you sailed far enough you would fall off the end of the Earth. Even Christopher Columbus was warned in 1492 that he might fall off the end of the Earth. Read Isaiah 40:22. Isaiah knew the Earth was round, 2200 years before Columbus sailed for the New World.

Throughout history, man has tried to count the number of stars in the sky. Even before Jesus was born, an astronomer named Hipparchus counted 1022 stars. This number was accepted for hundreds of years. Until Galileo invented the first telescope and he said that no fool would ever dare to count them. Read Jeremiah 33:22 to see how many stars God says there are. Too many to count.

In 1628, William Harvey, a medical doctor, discovered that the blood circulates throughout the body. Consider that when George Washington was ill at the end of his life, his doctors bled him with leeches. Three times they used the leeches to bleed him and then he died. Read Leviticus 17:14. It is the blood that sustains human life.

Much of the Bible was written as a history book to document the history of the Hebrew nation. Historians have doubted many of the historical figures that we read about in God's Word. Archaeologists today are proving the truths in the Bible. One example is a stone sign proving that Pontius Pilate was a governor over Judea. Before this discovery, there was no proof that Pontius Pilate was even real. The facts in the Bible are true regardless of man's proof.

As I said earlier, the Word of God should be used as a factual account to compare history. The history of Egypt was first believed to be the source that other accounts of history should be compared. Historians have changed their minds because they have found so many errors in the Egyptian timelines. The more that historians look at the Bible, the more they realize that the Bible is historically accurate.

The Bible is shown to be the Word of God because of its wonderful unity. The Bible is made up of 66 books, 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. It was written by at least forty authors and maybe more. The authors were a diverse group of men. Some were shepherds, kings, soldiers, princes, fishermen, scholars, historians, professional men and common laborers. All parts fit together.

The Bible has one theme – redemption.

The Bible has one hero – the Lord Jesus.

The Bible has one villain – the devil.

The Bible has one purpose – the glory of God!

The Bible must be the Word of God because of its fulfilled prophecy or predictions. The Bible is full of fulfilled prophecies. There are numerous prophecies that were predicted hundreds or even thousands of years before they come true. There are prophecies written in the Bible that are still yet to happen.

Peter wrote in *2 Peter 1:21* – “*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.*” All of the prophecies in the Bible came from God. We can know that a prophecy is from God because it will come true. God is eternal and He is not restrained by time.

This year as I teach or preach, I kept running in Isaiah 53. It is the prophecy about the coming Messiah, Jesus. The book of Isaiah was written more than 700 years before Jesus was born. Consider verse 7, “*He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.*” Compare it with His trial and His crucifixion recorded in Luke 23 or Matthew 27. He did not defend Himself. They didn't take His life, He gave it freely.

In the Bible, Jesus fulfilled more than 300 prophecies. According to mathematician Peter Stoner, author of the book *Science Speaks*, the mathematical probability of fulfilling just eight prophecies out of hundreds by one person would be 1 in 10 to the 17th power. That is 1 with 17 zeros after it. One trillion has 12 zeros. One quadrillion has 15 zeros. So the chances are very slim without God.

Micah 5:2 tells us that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Zechariah 11:12 tells us the wage for betraying Jesus will be 30 pieces of silver. The list of fulfilled prophecies in the Bible goes on and on. I have included a partial list of the prophecies fulfilled by Jesus.

The Bible is shown to be the Word of God because of its ever-living quality. The bestselling book of all time is the Holy Bible. 1 Peter 1:24-25 tells us: *“For all people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever.”* The Word of God endures forever. It is eternal as God is eternal.

The Bible is the Word of God because of its transforming power. The Bible is not a withered old book written for another time. It is as applicable and uplifting today as it was when it was written. Isaiah 55:10-11 tells us that when the Word of God goes out it will not return empty. It will do what God had intended it to do. It will bless those who read it, just like the rain refreshes the earth. I have seen numerous times where reading the Bible can change a person’s life.

The writer of the Book of Hebrews wrote: Hebrews 4:12 – *“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.”*

The Bible is life-changing. There is life and power in the Bible. Consider how many times the “Roman Road to Salvation” has been used to lead others to Christ.

- a. Romans 3:10 - *“There is no one righteous, not even one;”*
- b. Romans 3:23 - *“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”*
- c. Romans 6:23 - *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*
- d. Romans 5:8 - *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*
- e. Romans 10:9 - *“...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved...”*
- f. Romans 8:1 - *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ...”*

I have personally found that when I read and study my Bible, then I feel close to God. When I skip my time in His Word, I drift back into my own world of self-reliance and I do not feel His presence.

Rogers says, “You can trust the Bible. You will never be a great Christian until you come to the unshakable conviction that the Bible is the Word of God.”