

## Manuscript Evidence – Week 3

### Inspiration and the Bible – The Ground Rules

(Notes taken from: *Understandable History of the Bible*, Chapter 3 – The Ground Rules, Dr. Sam Gipp, Fourth Edition, 2019)

- 1) How do we construct the ground rules for investigating inspiration and preservation?
  - i) Any type of scientific investigation needs ground rules.
  - ii) These rules will have an effect on the conclusions.
  - iii) These rules must not contradict each other.
  - iv) These rules need to be applied fairly to ALL the evidence.
  - v) We must be fair and unbiased as we examine the evidence.
- 2) Why did God inspire the Bible?
  - a) God wants us to know that he had a hand in inspiring the Bible.
  - b) God wants us to know that they were not merely his thoughts but his very words.
  - c) But what if God gave those words to the original writers but then lost them?
  - d) If God lost the original words, and we only have the thoughts of God, those thoughts would become diluted by heretics throughout the ages.
  - e) Could a God, who overcame time and man's infallible human nature, to write a perfect Bible also preserve it?
    - i) The words of the LORD are pure words:  
as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.  
<sup>7</sup> Thou shalt keep them, O LORD,  
thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. Psalms 12:6-7
    - ii) God made a promise that the originals were perfect and free from error.
    - iii) He also made a promise to preserve his Bible from generation to generation.
    - iv) He also promised to keep it forever.
    - v) This is a promise to keep not just his thoughts, but it states that he would keep the very words themselves.
  - f) Without preservation, inspiration is a divine waste of time.
    - i) Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee: Jeremiah 32:17
    - ii) Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me? Jeremiah 32:27
    - iii) Nothing is too hard for God according to vs 27.
    - iv) Is the miracle of God to inspiring his word, as it is written over a period of 1700 years and then preserving it for another 2000, any harder than parting the Red Sea or preserving over 1 million Jews in the wilderness for 40 years?
    - v) I would argue that inspiring the Bible over a period of 1700 years is a much harder task than preserving it over the 3700 years.
    - vi) It is the preservation that the scholar has issue with.
    - vii) An analogy would be when the Pennsylvania Turnpike was built in the 1930's. It was the first of its kind in the day. Cutting through the mountains of western Pennsylvania with the equipment available in 1930 would be a major feat. Maintenance of that highway over time, though a difficult task, is still simpler than building it originally.

- viii) The same is true of preservation today. Though still a difficult task, and one that takes a supernatural work of God, it is still easier by comparison.
  - ix) Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. Matthew 24:35
    - (1) Why is it any easier to believe the miracles that Jesus performed than it is to believe this passage?
    - (2) It is a coward's faith that believes in the originals that can never be produced than in a Bible you can hold in your hand today.
- 3) Did God make a mistake?
- a) Did God make a mistake by only inspiring the original words and then failing to preserve those words in a book we can hold in our hands today?
  - b) We who are removed from the New Testament times need every word of God perfectly far more than Matthew, Luke, John, or Peter.
  - c) It is essential that we have every word of God and not just some of them.
  - d) "If the Scriptures have not been preserved then the doctrine of Inspiration is a purely academic matter with no relevance today. If we do not have the inspired words or do not know precisely which they be, then the doctrine of Inspiration is inapplicable." – Wilbur Pickering - Taken from - Fuller, David, *Which Bible?*, (Grand Rapids International Press, Grand Rapids, 1973), p. 269.
  - e) The main battle today is not about inspiration but about preservation with the modern Bible scholar.
  - f) Though we as Bible believers have little issue with preservation and God giving us the AV1611, there is a modern church movement where we are in the minority on this belief.
  - g) It is important that we be able to defend what we believe as Christians when it comes to preservation and the process God used to preserve his Bible over the last 3700 years.
- 4) **Ground Rule #1** – The Bible is a spiritual book that God supernaturally conceived and preserved
- a) Introduction
    - i) We must remember that we are dealing with not just any book but a spiritual book.
    - ii) It is the only spiritual book in existence and hence is one of a kind.
    - iii) This is a book that God exerted supernatural forces on to conceive in the original autographs.
    - iv) If he exerted supernatural force to conceive and create it, he must also exert supernatural force to preserve it.
    - v) This rule is completely compatible with the power of God as we know it.
    - vi) It is absolutely necessary to believe this rule in order to be a Christian.
  - b) The Power of God
    - i) The people who penned the Bible included two murders (Moses and David), an adulterer (David), a Christ denier (Peter), an idolator (Solomon), uneducated fishermen (Peter, James and John), and a farmer (Amos) and many others.
    - ii) From a human perspective, these are not the kind of people you would trust with the critical task of writing God's words.
    - iii) The human nature of the writers of the Old and New Testament was not an obstacle for an all-powerful (omnipotent) God.
    - iv) If God could use this group of fallible humans to write his words, couldn't he also use the Jew and church to preserve his word?
  - c) The Issue at Hand

- i) The question should be is why some Christians today have such a rock-solid faith in a God, and believe God could use David or Moses, but don't have the same rock-solid faith in those who helped to preserve God's word through the ages.
  - ii) The reason the Christian of today does not believe in preservation is because they don't believe in a God of absolutes.
  - iii) If they don't have an absolutely perfect word of God in their hands today, then they can live however they want.
  - iv) Without a preserved Bible, they can interpret the word of God that just somewhat contains His inspired words to mean whatever they want at the time.
  - v) This is how you end up with Sodomites being "Christians", heretical cults claiming to be "Christians", etc.
  - vi) Preservation = Absolutes – The modern Christian cannot deal in absolutes. The modern Christian can only deal in relative comparisons.
    - (1) 12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. 2 Corinthians 10:12
    - (2) Relative Christianity of today only compares themselves with other backslide Christians.
    - (3) It would make sense they need a Bible that is relatively reliable to go along with this philosophy.
    - (4) Knowing how to combat this when dealing with other Christians who are not Bible Believers is critical.
    - (5) You need to expose them to the error of being a Relative Christian and their lack of accountability to God.
    - (6) They need to have a God of absolutes.
- 5) **Ground Rule #2** - Satan desires to be worshipped and counterfeit God's actions, including His Word.
- a) The Premise
    - i) Satan desires to be worshipped as God.
    - ii) To do this, he is willing to counterfeit everything about God, including His Word.
    - iii) God is a supreme force for good and is active in the conception and preservation of the Bible.
    - iv) Satan is a supreme force for evil and is active in the conception and preservation of a bunch of false Bibles that will attempt to undermine the words of God.
  - b) Satan's desire to be worshipped.
    - i) How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!  
how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!  
<sup>13</sup> For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven,  
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:  
I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:  
<sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Isaiah 14:12-14
    - ii) Satan wanted to be worshipped as God.
    - iii) In order for Satan to be worshipped as God, he must imitate God.
    - iv) In Genesis 3, Satan implies that he knows more than God when talking to Eve.
    - v) When Moses displays the miracles of God, Satan's magicians are able to counterfeit many of plagues.

- vi) Satan uses many false God's to extract worship from his believers in the monasteries, mosques, temples, and cathedrals that cover the globe.
  - vii) Satan will take a portion of truth and mix in a falsehood that could even "deceive the very elect" – Matt 24:24.
  - viii) In Matthew 4, Satan's desperate last attempt with Christ was to get him to fall down and worship himself.
  - ix) He wanted to get Christ to use his power in a manner that was not acceptable, including making stones into bread, tempting God by jumping from the pinnacle, etc.
  - x) Satan is all about show and does not use his power to help but rather purely for his own gratification.
  - xi) Much like Satan wants power and control, so do his followers.
- c) Satan – The great counterfeiter
- i) Satan attempts to counterfeit God in every aspect.
  - ii) When he counterfeits, he often takes a single truth and makes it into many different truths.
    - (1) One God – many "gods"
    - (2) One Christ – many "christs"
    - (3) One Gospel – many "ways to heaven"
    - (4) One following: Christianity – many religions, denominations, cults.
    - (5) One Bible—many bibles.
  - iii) When God manifests His power in a positive action that results in a miracle, Satan attempts to manifest himself in a similar counterfeit in an attempt to steal God's reverence and worship.
  - iv) In Revelation 13 when it talks about the beast and the dragon, it talks a lot about worship that is a direct result of Satanic counterfeit miracles.
  - v) Satan has attempted to corrupt and counterfeit ever work of God.
  - vi) Why would we be so naive to think he would not try and make a counterfeit Bible.
  - vii) The devil has more Bibles than God and has completely diluted the true words of God.
- d) God's Warning
- i) If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, <sup>2</sup> And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; <sup>3</sup> Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Deuteronomy 13:1-3
  - ii) The false prophet spoken here did the same things as a real prophet.
    - (1) He prophesied – He foretold of future events.
    - (2) He had supernatural dreams – He had dreams about future events.
    - (3) He could do signs – He had the gift of signs.
    - (4) He could perform miracles – He could do wonders.
    - (5) He could even have his words come true – Wonders that could come to pass after he told about them.
  - iii) God proves the saint if he obeys his true words.
    - (1) God tests or proves his saints.
    - (2) God wants to see if the saints love him with all his heart and soul.

- (3) A true prophet of God never prophesies contrary to the written word of God – “Let us go after other gods” is a falsity.
- e) Satan’s Desire for Worship
- i) He uses the direct approach to achieve worship
    - (1) Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Matthew 4:10
    - (2) He wanted Christ to worship him directly.
    - (3) He tries multiple ways to get Jesus to worship him at the pinnacle of the temple.
  - ii) He tries to produce many “christs”.
    - (1) Satan has more success dealing with the creatures rather than the creator.
    - (2) He uses men to become little “christs” that he uses as conduits to receive worship.
    - (3) There are many false christs such as Buddha, Mohammed, Mahatma Gandhi, Joseph Smith, etc.
    - (4) The beast and the false prophet are the ultimate attempt to use false christs to receive worship from man.
  - iii) He uses false witnesses
    - (1) But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, Matthew 26:60
    - (2) Satan can only produce two witnesses that agree with each other.
    - (3) Because Satan is the father of lies, his witnesses often do not agree with each other.
    - (4) When you tell the truth, it is a lot easier to get your stories to line up.
    - (5) The real Christ had many witnesses.
    - (6) After his death, there were more than 500 witnesses of his resurrection (I Cor 15:16).
  - iv) He produces a lie attempting to prove the original Christ is lost and cannot be found.
    - (1) Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. <sup>12</sup> And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, <sup>13</sup> Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. <sup>14</sup> And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. <sup>15</sup> So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day. Matthew 28:11-15
    - (2) To this day, the Jews do not believe there was an original Christ or Messiah because of this coverup attempt by the chief priests.
    - (3) Is it possible that Satan would attempt these same things with the Word of God?
    - (4) Does Satan have a big cover up to keep the word of God from getting out by producing a lie?
    - (5) Is the lie that the original manuscripts have been lost or stolen and cannot be found?
- f) God’s Three Gifts
- i) Jesus Christ
    - (1) Salvation is only through Him.
    - (2) God displayed his love for use through Him.
    - (3) The future Kingdom will be ruled by Him.
    - (4) If Satan is successful, he must replace Jesus Christ with his own christ.
  - ii) Christianity
    - (1) These are the individuals who are born-again believers.

- (2) They are regenerated by God's power
  - (3) They have accepted God's payment for their sin.
  - (4) These Christians reside on earth, separate from their Saviour.
  - (5) These are the mortal enemies of Satan.
  - (6) If Satan is to be worshiped, he must attack and replace these people with his own "Christians"
- iii) The Bible
- (1) This is the crowning work of the Holy Spirit.
  - (2) The Holy Spirit spoke to men and moved them to create a book, the Bible.
  - (3) It is the one thing that has remained in addition to the Holy Spirit.
  - (4) It ties the Christian to heaven and their Saviour
  - (5) The Bible tells us everything we know about God.
  - (6) If Satan is to be worshipped, he must attack and replace God's Bible with one of his own making.
- iv) The Bible is the only way we know about God and without it we know nothing of him.
- v) The single most important thing you can do to an enemy is to destroy their ability to communicate with their troops.
- vi) When the US started the Gulf War in 1991, the first thing we did was take out Iraq's communication facilities. Without these, Saddam Hussein could not communicate with the Republican Guard. He was blind, deaf and dumb.
- vii) If Satan can convince the Christian that the Bible he holds in his hands is not perfect, then it will not matter if it is perfect.
- viii) If the Christian does not have confidence in the Word of God, it is useless to them.
- ix) For example, lets say that you have situation where you have 500 soldiers that are surrounding an enemy with 300 soldiers. Your 500 soldiers are broken into five companies of 100 each. Your Supreme Commander sends a message to attack the enemy. It seems like there would be a clear-cut victory. However, when the Supreme Commander sends the message, the first company never receives the message. For the second company, they missed the part of the message about when to attack so they wait. The third company gets a garbled message so they wait for another transmission. The fourth company gets the message perfectly clear but thinks it is a fake message produced by the enemy. The fifth company gets the message, believes it, follows the order and gets wiped out with 3-to-1 odds.
- x) The devil can achieve the same kind of confusion with God's people. He picks off the saints of God one by one and gets them to doubt that they have a perfect Bible.
- xi) As a result, Christians live a defeated life because they don't think they have an accurate authority.
- 6) Conclusion
- a) The Bible is a spiritual book which God exerted supernatural forces to conceive.
  - b) It is reasonable to assume that God would use the same supernatural forces to preserve the Word of God that he used to conceive it.
  - c) Satan desires to be worshiped.
  - d) Satan desires to counterfeit God's actions.
  - e) It is reasonable to assume that Satan would use everything in his power to create his own false Bibles and try to destroy the Christians faith in perfect, preserved Word of God.