

# The Bible is the Word of God

*For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. 1Th. 2:13*

# You Who Believe (Have Faith)

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb 11:1*

# Substance / Evidence

- *hupostasis* ... originally referred to "**that which stands under**," the "**basis**," from which developed a range of meanings in secular Greek: "**basis, foundation, support, guarantee, possession, existence, deposit.**" (Exegetical Dictionary NT)
- *elenchos* a proof, THAT by which a thing is proved or tested ... THAT by which invisible things are proved (and **we are convinced of their reality**) (Thayer NT 1650)

# A Defense, a Reason, a Shield

- *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a **defense** to everyone who asks you a **reason** for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 1Pet. 3:15-16*
- Believe = basis, foundation, support, proved, tested, convicted, assured.
- *above all, taking **the shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Eph. 6:16-17*
- This is what our faith in the Word of God brings

# God's Challenge – Search & Test

- *And if you say in your heart, '**How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?**' — 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if **the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has **spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.**** Deut 18:20-22*
- If anyone can find anything that is not true, it was not spoken by the Lord
- Not afraid, don't accept any of the prophet's words
- God is not afraid of careful inquiry and searching.

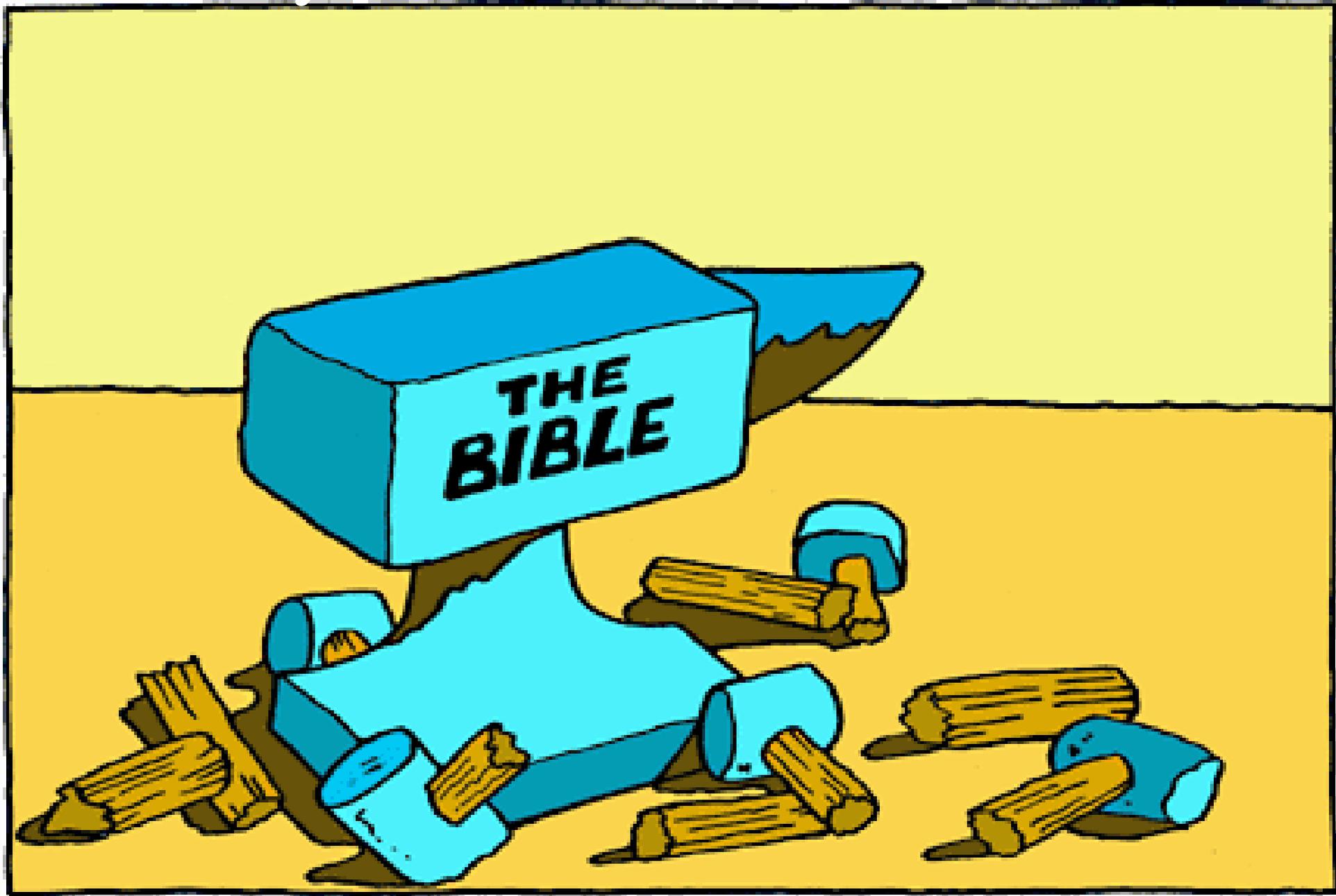
# Consequences of any Untruth

- The apostles knew the consequences.
- *And if Christ is not risen, then **our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty**. 15 Yes, and **we are found false witnesses of God**, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up — if in fact the dead do not rise. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, **we are of all men the most pitiable**. 1 Cor 15:12-19*
- Many have tried to undermine confidence in the Bible, yet it has stood the test of time.

# Implications of The Consequences

- *our preaching is empty*
- *we are false witnesses of God,*
- *we are of all men the most pitiable.*
- They had to be confident!!!!
- Paul left Israel and all that he had.
- Peter knew it was true.
- *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 2Pet. 1:16-17*
- Paul spoke often of how he saw Jesus.

Many Have Tried to Undermine



# God's Challenge

- It all stands or falls together.
- If anything in it is false.
- If you can find a true flaw, then reject it.
- If you cannot then it did not come from God.
- No human author would dare make this claim.
- Yet God made this claim in both the Old Testament and the New Testament

# He Proclaims His Challenge

- *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17*
- It is all inspired – Look for a Flaw!

# Author's Qualifications

- **Knows everything (omniscient). Heb. 4:13**
- **Everywhere always (omnipresent) Ps. 139:7-10**
- **Possesses omnipotent power Eph. 3:20**
- **Was, is and always will be. Ex. 3:14; Pet 3:8**
- **Creator of heaven and earth Ex. 20:11**
- **Should be easy to disprove if false.**

# The Author of Scripture

- Bible written over a 1500 year period
- Many different human authors with different educational social and intellectual background.
- Shepherds, fishermen, farmers, etc.
- No way for them to work together as time and death separated Moses from Jesus!
- God confidently affirmed they are all inspired, it is all Scripture, it is flawless and perfect!
- If man can find a single mistake, is encouraged to reject that author and all his writings.
- If one could be found it would cascade until it all fell into a heap.

# Scope of Scripture

- Creation of the universe.
- History of the human race.
- Existence of the various languages.
- Geographical locations of nations.
- Health issues
- Scientific issues
- Predictions of future (prophecy)
- Fall, Salvation and Redemption
- We find things to scoff at in all other ancient writings but NOT in the Bible.

# STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT

- 1. Prophetic accuracy:
- Man cannot predict the future!
- Prophecy is not something charlatans would dare use as a basis of proof since one mistake would negate everything else the prophet said in his book.
- Every prophecy in the Bible must be true.
- If the Bible is truly false why can't they find a false prophecy?
- Dead Sea Scrolls

# Scientific Accuracy:

- **Bible is not a book of science**
- **but since God is Creator we expect all that touches creation to be 100% accurate.**
- **Man has yet to find a valid mistake.**
  - **Number of stars**
  - **Life in the blood**
  - **Difference of flesh in man etc.**
  - **Earth is round.**
- **All books of antiquity have scientific errors**
- **Notions found from day the author lived.**
- **Every one except the Bible.**

# Geographic Accuracy:

- The bible never proven wrong whether in altitude or location of any city or site.
- Whenever archaeologists can pinpoint a spot from the Bible description, it is there, right where it said it was.
- Paths in the Sea

# **Doctrinal Accuracy**

- **How could Moses begin a theme:**
- **Carried by David; Isaiah; Jeremiah**
- **Furthered by John & Jesus**
- **Completed by the unlearned fishermen who became his apostles**
- **Paul - an enemy of the church**
- **From Genesis through to Revelation, the theme is redemption.**
- **No contradictions,**
- **Fits like a hand into a glove.**

# In The Final Analysis

- **Bible is either all it claims to be or**
- **A hoax, lie, deception,**
- **If the first, all must be perfect**
- **If the second must be flawed & human like everything else.**
- **Does the Scripture look like any other historical document?**
- **Has it been discredited, found false or in error at any time in history?**

# What About You?

- *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. 1Th. 2:13*

# The Word of the Lord Will Abide Forever!

- *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But the word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. 1 Peter 1:23-25*