

## The New Testament - How Can I know if it is True?

- I. How do I know that anything is *true*? (true - in agreement with fact or reality; genuine)
  - A. By using:
    1. the scientific method
      - a. observation
      - b. examination
      - c. experimentation
    2. the historical method
      - a. primary source material (an eyewitness record)
      - b. secondary source material
      - c. prophecy\*
    3. subjective input
      - a. is it coherent?
      - b. is it rational?
      - c. does it have a ring of truth?
- II. How were the books of the New Testament selected? (Christians call the Bible the *canon* of sacred Scripture. *Canon* is taken from the Greek word for "reed" (measuring rod)
  - A. How many choices? Over 3,000 possibilities. 27 were eventually chosen. Only 3-4 others were given serious consideration.
  - B. What was the criterion for a book to be included in the *Canon*?
    1. The book must have an *Apostolic origin* or backing (i.e. Peter's authority stood behind the Gospel of Mark
    2. The book must have the *acceptance* of the early church.
    3. The book must have *conformity* with that core of books about which there was never any doubt.
  - C. Christians talk of the Bible as being the *inspired* Word of God. Would the men who chose the books to be included in the New Testament also have been *inspired* by God? Are the N.T. books:
    1. a fallible collection of fallible books?
    2. a fallible collection of infallible books?
    3. an infallible collection infallible books?
  - D. The Case of an Infallible Collection of Infallible Books. The N.T. is unique from all other ancient literature in its:
    1. continuity
    2. circulation
    3. survival
    4. teaching
    5. influence on the surrounding literature

*Pay you money and make your choice!*

**Is the Bible Really God's Word? (from Dake's Annotated Bible)**

**I. Six Proofs the Bible is Genuine and Authentic (p. 513-520 O.T.)**

**A. Claims of the bible itself**

- 1. The prophets of the O.T. claimed they were sent of God and that their messages were given to them by God. Over 2,500 times the prophets claim that God spoke by them.**
- 2. The whole Bible centers around the person and work of Jesus Christ.**
- 3. The Bible also represents the commission of the apostles as divine. God confirmed their ministry by signs and wonders.**
- 4. The testimony of the N.T. to the genuineness and authenticity of the O.T. is plain to see. The O.T. is quoted about 250 times in the N.T. and alluded to about 850 times. All O.T. books are either quoted or alluded to except Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon.**

**B. The testimony of secular history (i.e. Josephus; Tacitus)**

**C. Ancient Manuscripts - Plus 5,000**

**D. Lectionaries (collections of Gospels & Epistles for reading in the churches) - Plus 1,000**

**E. Patristic quotation - (Bible quotes of Christian writers in the 1st 3 centuries)**

**II. The Authors of the Various Books of the Bible Were Inspired (p. 241 N.T.)**

*(theopneustos - Greek for "God breathed")*

**A. Some parts of Scripture give the exact words of God (Ex 32:16; Dt 5:4; Mt 3:17)**

**B. Some words were put into the mouths of the speakers who spoke as the Spirit inspired them (Ex 4:12; Num 23:5; Acts 3:21)**

**C. Some words were written as the Spirit moved men (Ex 34:27; 2 Pet 1:21)**

**D. In some parts of the Scripture it was left up to the writers to choose their own words and relate truth by the inspiration & guidance of the Spirit. (Dan 12:8-9; Luke 1:1-4)**

**III. Evidence that the Bible is God Breathed (p. 241 N.T.)**

**A. Its wonderful unity B. Its superiority to other books C. Its influence on the world D. Man couldn't have written it (i.e. paradoxes & antinomies) E. The character and greatness of those who accept it. F. All man's present & eternal needs are met by the Bible. G. Its preservation through the ages. H. The response of the soul to it. I. Fulfilled prophecy (approx 3,300 verses have been fulfilled. J. Miracles K. Its adaptability L. Its spiritual and moral power.**