



Sermon Series: The Word of God

Sermon Title: God's Written Word

Date: October 3, 2010

We've been looking at a series of sermons based on the word of God. Turn to Psalm 119. You'll notice that Psalm 119 is the longest of all the Psalms.

You'll also notice that it is divided up into the Hebrew Alphabet

The Hebrew Alphabet is called the Aleph bet; because the first letter in the Hebrew Alphabet is Aleph.

The Greek "A" is Alpha.

Each letter in this Psalm is divided into 8 verses.

The entire Psalm is based on the Word of God.

It's the Word of God written about the Word of God

Psalm 119:89

Settled = Unchangeable, Unmovable

Can we really trust this Word?

Is it any more than fiction, a Fairy Tale? Some say it's just the made up ramblings of man

There has been a host of enemies that have come against the Word of God.

I tell you your Pastor trust and believes this book- it is the Inerrant, infallible, indestructible, Word of God. I believe in this book, I believe every word, I believe in the index, the concordance, heck I even believe the maps in the back!

If this is not the true Word of God we might as well go home.

If this is not the true Word of God then none of us can claim eternal salvation.

If this is not the true Word of God then none of us in the darkest hours of our lives can claim to hold onto the promises of God's Word.

Quit lock the doors and sell the building if we don't believe that the Bible is the True, Reliable Word of God.

WE CAN BELIEVE THIS BIBLE.

How do we know that this book is reliable and Trustworthy? I have four reasons:

#1: Incomparable Composition

Nothing Compares to the Written Word of God

It is composed of 66 separate books, written over 1500 years, by 40 authors, on three different continents and revealed in three languages.

In 100 BC The Hebrew Old Testament was translated into Greek and became known as the Septuagint.

In 328 AD St. Jerome a Catholic Priest translated the Greek into the Latin and it was known as the Latin Vulgate.

John Wycliffe translated the Latin Vulgate into English in 1388

In 1611 King James commissioned the Word to be copied into the English Language of that day.

In 1971 Lockman Foundation translated the Bible into the language of the day – We call this translation the New American Standard Bible

Also in 1971 Robert Taylor translated the Bible into An Easy to read modern version we call the Living Bible.

In 1978 a group of 115 translators of the New York Bible Society gave us the New International Version.

And in 1984 we have received the New King James Version.

Other translations have come but they have not changed the composition of this book. The message has remained the same. The Bible has its origins in God Himself.

The Bible tells us that God spoke to Moses' the Ten Commandments and then commanded Moses' that he was to write them down.

“God spoke these words” or “Thus saith the Lord” are found 2,000 times in the Old Testament

The book of Exodus with its 40 chapters has “God spoke all these words” 160 times.

In Proverbs 30:5 Solomon says “Every word of God is pure”

Matthew 24:35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away”

Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword....”

2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

Isaiah 40:8 “the grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God stands forever”

This is no ordinary book, this book can be relied on- this book is “THUS SAITH THE LORD!!”

The SECOND WAY we know that this book is reliable and Trustworthy:

#2: Indestructible Preservation

I think it is safe to say that Satan Hates the Word of God.

And because he hates the Word of God he will do everything he can to keep you from being in it. He will give you every excuse in the world.

“I don’t understand it” or “I don’t have time for it”

He wants to keep you from it. He wants to keep you weak. I said the 1st Sunday of this series “That you are only as strong of a Christian as you are strong in the Word of God.”

All through history people have tried to destroy this book:

There was a wicked King named Manassas in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. In 697 BC. That tried to eliminate all the copies of the Law of Moses and instigate pagan worship. He got rid of all the copies except one and 20 years after his death Josiah his son found it and Great revival began in the land because they had found the Word of God.

During the 400 years between Malachi and Matthew there was a wicked Syrian ruler named Antiochus IV who desecrated the Jewish temple. He tried to destroy all copies of the Word of God and made it illegal to own a copy. But Then came the Maccabee’s –through the Maccabean revolt they overthrew this wicked king and they reinstated scripture in the land and a great revival of the Word of God broke out just before the arrival of John the Baptist and the birth of Jesus Christ.

Mary Queen of England aka Bloody Mary. She forbade anyone from having a copy of the scriptures and she said that anyone caught with an English copy of the scriptures would be burned at the stake. However, 5 years after her death Queen Elizabeth commissioned 130 copies of the scriptures and a great revival broke out all over England.

In the late 1700’s French writer/philosopher Voltaire stated “That within 100 years Christianity and the scriptures would be swept away and would not exist” – but 50 years after his death the Geneva Bible Society rented his house and used his printing presses to print copies of the Word of God.

I’m telling you – you cannot defeat, you cannot destroy the Word of God

Voice of Martyrs magazine

Why would they do that?

Because they believe in the power of these pages

The THIRD WAY we know that this book is reliable and Trustworthy:

#3: It's an Irrefutable Authentic Book

4 things to prove the authenticity of the Word of God

1. **Archeology:**

a. **Dead Sea Scrolls:**

Dead Sea Scrolls: What are They?

The Dead Sea Scrolls have been called the greatest manuscript discovery of modern times. They were discovered between 1947 and 1956 in eleven caves along the northwest shore of the Dead Sea. This is an arid region 13 miles east of Jerusalem and 1,300 feet below sea level. The Dead Sea Scrolls are comprised of the remains of approximately 825 to 870 separate scrolls, represented by tens of thousands of fragments. The texts are most commonly made of animal skins, but also papyrus and one of copper. They are written with a carbon-based ink, from right to left, using no punctuation except for an occasional paragraph indentation.

Dead Sea Scrolls: Why are they Important?

The Dead Sea Scrolls can be divided into two categories—biblical and non-biblical. Fragments of every book of the Old Testament (Hebrew canon) have been discovered, except for the book of Esther. Now identified among the scrolls are 19 fragments of Isaiah, 25 fragments of Deuteronomy and 30 fragments of the Psalms. The virtually intact Isaiah Scroll, which contains some of the most dramatic Messianic prophecy, is 1,000 years older than any previously known copy of Isaiah.

In addition to the biblical manuscripts, there are commentaries on the Hebrew canon, paraphrases that expand on the Torah, community standards and regulations, rules of war, non-canonical psalms, hymnals and sermons. Most of the texts are written in Hebrew and Aramaic, with a few in Greek.

The Dead Sea Scrolls appear to be the library of a Jewish sect, considered most likely the Essenes. Near the caves are the ancient ruins of [Qumran](#), a village excavated in the early 1950's that shows connections to both the Essenes and the scrolls. The Essenes were strictly observant Jewish scribes, who appear Messianic and apocalyptic in thinking. The library appears to have been hidden away in caves around the outbreak of the First Jewish Revolt (66-70 A.D.) as the Roman army advanced against the Jews.

Based on various dating methods, including carbon 14, paleographic and scribal, the Dead Sea Scrolls were written during the period from about 200 B.C. to 68 A.D. Many crucial biblical manuscripts (such as Psalm 22, Isaiah 53 and Isaiah 61) date to at least 100 B.C. As such, the Dead Sea Scrolls

have revolutionized textual criticism of the Old Testament. Phenomenally, we find the biblical texts in substantial agreement with the Masoretic text, as well as variant translations of the Old Testament used today.

Dead Sea Scrolls: Dramatic Evidence for the Reliability of Messianic Prophecy

The Dead Sea Scrolls comprise the oldest group of Old Testament manuscripts ever found, dating back to 100--200 B.C. This is dramatic, because we now have absolute evidence that Messianic prophecies contained in today's Old Testament (both Jewish and Christian) are the same Messianic prophecies that existed prior to the time Jesus walked on this earth. It goes without saying, manuscript reliability and textual criticism have taken cosmic steps forward! There is no question that Jesus Christ was the Messiah that the Jews were waiting for.

- b. **Codex Sinaiticus:** is ancient hand-written copy of the Greek Bible.^[1] It is an manuscript written in the 4th century on parchment. In 1844, during his first visit to Monastery of Saint Catherine, Leipzig archaeologist Constantin von Tischendorf claimed that he saw some leaves of parchment in a waste-basket. He said they were "rubbish which was to be destroyed by burning it in the ovens of the monastery",^[73] although this is firmly denied by the Monastery. After examination he realized that they were part of the Septuagint, written in an early Greek uncial script. He retrieved from the basket 129 leaves in Greek which he identified as coming from a manuscript of the Septuagint. He asked if he might keep them, but at this point the attitude of the monks changed, they realized how valuable these old leaves were, and Tischendorf was permitted to take only one-third of the whole, i.e. 43 leaves. These leaves contained portions of 1 Chronicles, Jeremiah, Nehemiah, and Esther. After his return they were deposited in the Leipzig University Library, where they still remain. In 1846 Tischendorf published their contents, naming them the 'Codex Friderico-Augustanus' (in honor of Frederick Augustus).^[74] In the monastery left other portions of the same codex, containing all of Isaiah and 1 and 4 Maccabees

The **SECOND** thing to prove the authenticity of the Word of God

2. Science: it is not a science book but it is true whenever it touches on scientific matters.

- a. Isaiah 40:22 – Talks about the earth's sphere shape – that might of helped Columbus?
- b. Job 26:7 – The earth suspended in atmosphere
- c. Gen 15:5 – stars
- d. 2 Samuel 22:16 – Mountains in the sea

- e. Psalm 8:8 – currents of the sea
- f. Leviticus 17:11 – the blood giving life to the flesh

The THIRD thing to prove the authenticity of the Word of God

3. Fulfilled Prophecy -

Isaiah has 121 prophecies on the birth, life, and death of Jesus. ALL 121 have come true!

Peter Stoner: The Great Mathematician, points out that one person fulfilling even 8 of those prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. That's 1 with 17 zeros after it. That's just 8, Jesus fulfilled all 121.

Note: Stoner is probably best known for his work *Science Speaks* that discusses, among other things, Bible prophecies probability estimates and calculations.^[3] The work is often cited in the field of Christian apologetics in regard to Bible prophecy.^[4] Professor Stoner's work became widely known when it was mentioned by Josh McDowell in his works *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* (revised as *New Evidence that Demands a Verdict*).

There are 333 prophecies in the Old Testament about the coming messiah. One person fulfilling even just 50 of these prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 157th power or a 1 with 157 zeros after it.

JESUS FUFILLED ALL 333.

The FOURTH thing to prove the authenticity of the Word of God

4. It is authenticated by Christ Himself

Luke 24:27- After his resurrection to the men he met on the Emmaus Road Jesus "Beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself"

John 6:32 – Jesus talks about the manna from Heaven

John 3:14 – mentions the serpent in the wilderness

Matthew 12: 39-40 – Jesus refers to Jonah and the Great fish

Jesus did not deny the written Word of God so how can we?

Christ is the key to scripture, once we understand this the Word of God comes alive it becomes more than just a history book.

For example you will find Jesus in:

The Law: Gives us the foundation of Christ

The History Books: Shows us the preparation for Christ

The Poetry Books: Shows us the desire for Christ

The Prophecy Books: Proclaim the expectation of Christ

The Gospels: Show us the manifestation of Christ

Acts: The propagation of Christ

The Epistles: Give us the interpretation of Christ.

Revelation: The consummation of Christ.

It is all about Jesus, it's all about Him.

Why can we trust that this Bible is the written Word of God?

Why can I believe that in the darkest hours of my life I can believe in His Word?

Why can we say that?

Because of....

#4 Incredible Transformation

The Transformer movie has nothing on the Word of God.

The Word of God can transform **every nation and every person** in it.

May we never forget that it is God's Word that makes this nation great and has transformed it into the Land of the free and the home of the brave.

George Washington said "it is rightly impossible to govern this nation without God and the Bible"

Daniel Webster said "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering but if we and our posterity neglect its instruction and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury our glory in profound obscurity."

Daniel Webster: "If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country, and the people do not become religious, I do not know what is to become of us as a nation. And the thought is one to cause solemn reflection on the part of every patriot and Christian. If truth be not diffused, error will be; if God and His Word are not known and received, the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy; if the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will; if the power of the gospel is not felt through the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness, will reign without mitigation or end."

Woodrow Wilson said “when you have read the Bible you will know it is the Word of God because you will have found it the key to your own heart, your own happiness and your own duty.”

Ulysses S. Grant “Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor to your liberties. Write its precepts in your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this Book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization and to this we look as our guide in the future.”

Let’s not forget that this nation was not founded on the religion of Islam, nor Hindu, nor the godlessness of Marxism, but this nation was founded on the living Word of God and our obedience to it.

The obedience to the Word of God is the only glue that is holding this nation together.

We keep taking it away. We better be careful!! We need revival to the Word of God!!!!

But most importantly the Word of God transforms people

It transforms me every day. Every time I offer God the fertile soil to plant His word in my heart it grows.

I am able to hide the Words of His book in my heart so that I may not sin against Him

When you get into the Word of God it will transform you. It will change your life. It will introduce you to the Savior. It will change you from death to life.

For it is His word that tells us “For God so loved the world that He gave us His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but shall have eternal life.”