

## The Books Have Not Been Cooked

“You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilization to pieces, turn the world upside down and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature” –Mahatma Gandhi

### Can the Bible Be Trusted?

#### The Power of Example

- The first test of credibility is plausibility—show before tell
- “Make it attractive, make good men wish it were true, and then show that it is” – Blaise Pascal
- “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven” – Jesus

#### The Power of Eye-Witness

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning The World of Life” – John

“ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas , and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep ” – Paul

“A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Ruf us, was passing by on his way from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross” – Mark

Many people die for what they believe; but who would die for somebody they know is untrue?

#### The Power of Prophetic Fulfillment

Isaiah records a messianic prophecy seven centuries before Christ and the crucifixion (Is 52:13-53:12)

• Suffer sinlessly	• Pierced through
• Silently	• Cut off
• Substitute	• Placed in rich men’s tomb
• Scourging	• Lifted up and exalted after death

#### The Power of Proximity in Copies

Two credibility issues involve the quantity of available documents and distance between

time of writing and date of copies.

Comparison of Extant Historical Documents		
Histories	Oldest MSS	Number Surviving
Livy 59 B.C. – A.D. 17	4 th Century	27
Tacitus A.D. 56 – 120	9 th Century	3
Suetonius A.D. 69 – 140	9 th Century	200 +
Thucydides 460 – 400 B.C.	1 st Century	20
Herodotus 484 – 425 B.C.	1 st Century	75
New Testament A.D. 60-90  Mark A.D. 60-70 Luke A.D. 75-80 Matthew A.D. 75-80 John A.D. 90-95	C 100-150 A.D.	C: 5700 GK MSS alone 10,000 Latin  1,000,000 church father quotes

### The Power of Corroborating Historic Evidence

- Merneptah Stele Wall relief inscription in Lux or Egypt dated 1207 B.C. “Israel is laid waste”
- Discovery of the “House of David” and “King of Israel” inscription in 1993 dated from the 9 th Century B.C.
- The dedication stone at Abila and the Lysanias of Luke 3:1
- The stone of Delphi and Gallio the Proconsul of Achaia referred to in Acts 18:12,14

### The Power of Embarrassing Details

- “What nation would falsely claim to be enslaved?” (Time, Dec 18, 1995) cf. Ex 1:10-11
- King David and his adulterous murder (2 Sam 11)
- Jesus believed to be crazy by his family (Mark 3:20-21)
- Peter’s denial of Christ (Mark 14:17)

- Saul's (Paul) approval of Stephen's execution (Acts 8:1)

## The Power of Pre-discovered Scientific Accuracies

- The shape of the earth

“He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in” (Is 40:22)

- The earth suspended in nothing

“He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing” (Job 26:7)

- The innumerable stars

“He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring[ a ] be” (Gen 15:5)

- The existence of valleys in the sea

“The valleys of the sea were exposed and the foundations of the earth laid bare at the rebuke of the Lord ,at the blast of breath from his nostrils” (2 Sam 22:16)

- The existence of springs and fountains in the seas

“In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened” (Gen 7:11)

“Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky” (Gen 8:2)

- The existence of water paths (ocean currents) in the seas

“The birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas” ( Psm 8:8)

- The hydrologic cycle

“He wraps up the waters in his clouds, yet the clouds do not burst under their weight” (Job 26:8)

“He draws up the drops of water, which distill as rain to the streams; the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind” (Job 36:27-28)

“The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again” ( Ecc 1:6-7)

- The concept of entropy

“When the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the Lord. In the course of my life he broke my strength; he cut short my days. So I said: “Do not take me away, my God, in the midst of my days; your years go on through all generations. In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change

them and they will be discarded” (Ps 102: 22-26).

- The nature of health, sanitation, and sickness (Lev 12-14)

#### The Power of God’s Word

- The power to judge the thoughts and attitudes of the heart ( Heb 4:12)
- The “seed” God uses to produce new birth (1 Pet 1:23)
- Saving faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ (Rom 10:17)

Compared to other ancient religious writings the Bible has been exhaustively scrutinized, poked and prodded by destructive agendas and continues to emerge powerfully intact—at issue is the risk of missing out in its external destiny message and invitation to open hearts to a life-transforming forever relationship with Christ, the God of the Ages.

“Most people are bothered by the passages in Scripture which they cannot understand. The Scripture which troubles me most is the Scripture I do understand” – Mark Twain

“The Old Testament in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek, being immediately inspired by God and, by His singular care and providence kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical ; so in all controversies of religion, the church is finally to appeal unto them.” – The Westminster Confession