

“Is the Bible from God?” (Psalm 119: Part 7)

Verse to Remember: “I hate and despise falsehood, But I love your law” (Psalm 119:163).

Why should we trust the Bible is history and truth, and not legend and lies?

1. The Bible doesn't have the form of myth

- The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus have the form of eyewitness testimony.
- Jesus didn't treat the Old Testament as myth. He substantiated many parts as real events, including Creation (Gen 1:1; Mark 13:19); the fall of mankind and the person of Satan (Gen 3; John 8:44); the flood and Noah (Gen 6-8; Luke 17:26-27); the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the rescue of Lot (Gen 19; Luke 17:28-32); the manna in the wilderness (Ex 16; John 6:32); Jonah and the fish (Jonah 1-2; Matt 12:39-40); and Moses and the burning bush (Ex 3; Mark 10:26).

2. Miracle does not mean myth

- There is no reason to have an anti-supernatural bias. You are supernatural.

3. The Bible is history, not myth

- There is external historical support for Jesus. Tacitus, Suetonius, Josephus, and other non-Christian historians record that Jesus was a Jewish teacher; that many believed he performed healings and exorcisms; that he was rejected by the Jewish leaders; that he was crucified under Pontius Pilate during the reign of Tiberius; and that despite his shameful death, his followers spread beyond the land of Israel such that multitudes were in Rome by 64AD. Pliny the Younger wrote to Emperor Trajan that early Christians would “sing hymns to Christ as to a god” (History.com).

4. Bias does not mean made up

- The Apostle John was honest about why he wrote about Jesus (John 20:30-31).

5. What they would have made up that is not in the Bible

- If the biblical writers felt free to invent words and actions of Jesus, it would seem likely that they would put words in his mouth regarding early church doctrinal controversies, such as whether a follower of Christ would need to be circumcised.

6. What they would not have made up that is in the Bible

- Those who controlled the story would not make themselves look bad if they were making things up. The disciples were scared and scattered (Mark 14:27). Peter denied Jesus three times (Matt 26:69-75). Thomas doubted (John 20:24-25). As the disciples were scattered, it was women who found the empty tomb, including Mary Magdalene who was previously demon possessed (Matt 28:1-9). There are also the sins of David (2 Samuel 11), of Moses (Ex 2:12; 4:10-15; Num 20:6-12), and of the kings of Judah and Israel (2 Chron 21:6 et. al.).

7. They would not have died for a lie

- A group of people will not die for a lie that they know to be a lie.