

The Mt. Olive Worship Experience
"40 Days in the Word"...How do we know the Bible is Truth
Pastor Barry Morton

Intro: (Story of Snipe Hunting at the lake)

When I was told the TRUTH about the snipe...things changed in me. The TRUTH changed me. I viewed things differently...meaning when I looked at my brother and uncle I didn't know if I could trust them. The TRUTH also changed my focused.....and when I learned the TRUTH I wanted to share it with everyone I knew so they wouldn't make a fool of themselves like I did!

Can I tell you that the WORDS that are written in the Book...are TRUTH! And when you begin to READ the WORD and LEARN the WORD and LIVE the WORD...I am telling you THINGS CHANGE in your life!!!

I am so PUMPED because for 40 Days we are going to dig into God's TRUTH...His Word and allow it to transform our lives! Listen to this...

Read 2 Tim. 3:16-17

It says that "All scripture is God breathed." That word GOD-BREATHED in Greek is *THEOPNEUSTOS*. THEO, meaning God and PNEUSTOS, meaning breathed. The Bible is God-breathed. It is a book that is INSPIRED by God! It's NOT just a good idea! It's NOT a nice suggestion! It is God's INSPIRED Word to us!

But here is the question...how do we really know? How do we really know this the Word of God? How do we know it's NOT just a bunch of fables or a bunch of stories that put together? How can we trust that the Bible IS Truth?

That's a very important question that we need to ask before we ever start studying the Bible AND this morning we are going to settle this issue. Because there are incredible proofs, evidences, and facts that prove that THIS IS THE TRUTH!!! I want to tell you that there are many proofs but this morning we are just going to look at 5...

1 It is historically accurate

The Bible is historically accurate MEANING it's true history. But how do we know? By the same way you know that other history is accurate...you test it! For example, a historian would ask is this written down by somebody who saw it or is it second hand or third hand, or is it a legend written down a hundred years later?

What we need to know is that the Bible is primarily eyewitness account...that's why it's good history! Moses was there when the Red Sea split! Joshua was there when the walls of Jericho fell! Matthew was there...he wrote it down! John was there...he wrote it down! Its eyewitness accounts of what happened!

The other test of history by which we know the Bible is accurate is the extreme care with which the Bible was copied. You may have heard people say, "I'm sure it was right when it was first written. But it's been passed down generation after generation...all these changes had to have come to it..." Ever heard that one? But when you look into it you find out the extreme care with which the Bible was copied.

For example, the Old Testament scribes had a long list of rules that had to be followed to make sure it was exact! One of those rules was you had to copy letter by letter and NOT word by word. They were so precise in this that they know how many letters of the alphabet were in each book! For instance, our letter A, they would know there were 1,653 A's in a particular book. And if they counted and there were 1,654, then they would throw the scroll away and start over! That's how exact and precise they were!

Another proof is archeology. You look at archeology and it proves again and again that the places and the people that the Bible talks about are true! It's NOT fiction! Let me give you a RELLY COOL example of this...

In the book of John, chapter 5 verse 2, John refers to a pool of Bethesda in which there's this very strange design of having five covered colonnades...five rows of columns over the pool. That's was a very bizarre design for a pool. They dug up all around Jerusalem and never could find this pool.

So some scholars started to believe that this pool existed. Maybe it was a metaphor? Five? What else have five? The first five books of the Old

Testament...the Torah. Maybe it's a metaphor for that? And some people went and wrote books saying that the five colonnades refer to the five books of the Old Testament...it's NOT a real pool!

Then they dug in a slightly different place. They uncovered a pool that still to this day has the remains of five covered colonnades right in the very area of Jerusalem John said it would be all the time! Imagine being one of those people who wrote the book! It's the INSPIRED Word of God!

2 The Bible is prophetically accurate

That simply means the predictions in the Bible always come true. Did you know that the bible is filled with literally thousands of prophecies where God says, "This is going to happen at such and such a time AND in such and such a way. And over all of the centuries thousands of these prophecies have already been fulfilled! Everyone of them exactly as God said...

Look at Jesus. There are over three hundred prophecies in the bible about Jesus up to a thousand years before he was EVER born. These prophecies said things like, this is when He will be born...this is where He will be born...this is how He will be born...this is how He will die and the manner in which He will die! Over three hundred and all were TRUE!

What are the odds of me making three hundred predictions about you and every one of them coming true? The odds are so astronomical you couldn't write that number down! It takes more faith to believe that it was all just a coincidence that to believe that God planned it! It's the INSPIRED Word of God!

Read 2 Pet. 1:21

3 It has the same theme from cover to cover

It has the same theme through the entire book! It's the same theme of REDEMPTION from Genesis to the end. You say, what's the big deal about that? I know a lot of books that carry the same theme from beginning to end. But were those books written over sixteen hundred years, by forty different authors? I don't think so!

Think about this...this book was written by poets and prophets and kings and soldiers and attorneys and prisoners...its written by all kinds of people! And it was written in all kinds of locations...some of it was written in a cave, some written on ships, some written in homes, some of it written in palaces, and some of it was written in prison!

And they all still came up with the same theme! You've got to be kidding me! 1600 year and 40 different authors...How do you think they all got the same story? It's the INSPIRED Word of God!

(Example of 50 pieces of paper)

What would the odds that all fifty of those pieces of paper would form a perfect map of the USA and the fifty states? The odds of that happening are astronomical! But the Bible is more than that...it was many places, many people and many centuries and yet it all fits together with the same theme!

4 It has survived all attacks

The Bible is the most denied, disputed, debated, and banned book ever in history! Millions of people have died because they refused to give up their Bibles.

The Bible has been under attack for century after century by everything you can imagine. Yet it is still the most read, published, translated, bestselling book in the world!

Read 1 Pet. 1:24-25 (It is God-Breathed)

5 It has transforming power

Nothing can change the lives of people like the Bible.

(Video)

When you surrender your life to Jesus and you begin to follow Him and live out His ways and His principles and His commands...Everything changes...your life becomes TRANSFORMED!!

The most important question you're going to ask yourself in life is this...what is going to be the final authority for my life? You need to decide that! Is it going to be the WORD or is it going to be the WORLD? Am I going to listen to what God says is true? Or am I going to listen to what the world says is true?

If you say that it's going to be the WORLD then you need to be ready to be bound by the things OF this world. You need to be prepared to be bound by stress, worry, fear, shame, guilt, confusion, uncertainty, sorrow

But if you decide that you want the WORD to be the authority in your life, NOT just a neat idea or some good suggestions...then listen to this...

Read John 8:31-32

There is Freedom knowing that God made you to love you!

- 1 you can be forgiven
- 2 you don't have to live in guilt and shame
- 3 you can experience an abundant life
- 4 that in here there is wisdom for every decision you make
- 5 that God has a purpose for your life and His plan is good and perfect!

But you will never experience that freedom until you dig into the PERFECT Word of God!