

A brief overview of the Bible. It contains the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament contains such things as the Ten Commandments. The New Testament contains the Life of Jesus. There are many other people, places, and things in the Bible. Bible originally meant "The Books" but now is known as "The Book".

Is the Bible a historical account, and is it for us today? It's been translated through out the ages many different times. Has it maintained its originality? In fact it has. Some of the Old Testament, we have today, can be checked against the Dead Sea scrolls. For example the whole Book of Isaiah is found in the Dead Sea scrolls.

Moving onto the New Testament, its accuracy is even more astounding. There are about 4500 Greek documents to check the New Testament against. These Greek documents are from about 125 AD to the invention of printing.

Not just any Book was let into the New Testament. They had to go through these 5 tests before being allowed in.

1. Documents of an Apostle, or through ones help. Such as possibly Paul helped Timothy.

2. Were these documents guided from beyond the human mind. Such as God guiding them to write this document.

3. Truthful about Salvation and man's condition. A document that said ok here's how you attain Salvation when it has already been told the real way in the rest of the Bible wouldn't work.

4. Did it internally consist with the rest of The Word?

There can only be one way Adam and Eve came here not 10.

5. Was it read throughout the rest of the Church? If only accepted by a Church body in one place for one reason or another and not by the whole Church body it wouldn't be let in.

These might seem like strict rules but they helped to preserve the Bible.

Languages of the Bible. The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew, whereas the New Testament was written mostly in Greek.

The Greek in the New Testament was somewhat confusing until in the 1890s papyri was found in Egypt, that helped to clarify the Greek a great deal. But this doesn't mar upon the originality. This information was used in the English Revised edition of the Bible. It takes more time to study say the King James version versus the English revised edition due to the word style, but this can help lead to deeper understanding. The translations span in full or in part 1100 languages.

Other evidence, an archeology find has found evidence of a flood layer in the excavation of the Ziggurat of Kish in Babylonia. This points to the existence of the great flood during Noah's life. There are many other finds probably too numerous to list and they are still finding more!

Prophecies of the Bible. We have heard a lot of Jesus, especially with Christmas around the corner. Who was this person?

Why is our calendar based upon his birth? It is because of his monumental impact on humans.

Jesus was foretold in the Old Testament Book I mentioned earlier known as Isaiah. Isaiah foretells of the Messiah who's name would be Jesus. How he who had done no violence would be wounded for our transgressions. This was foretold long before Jesus was born.

Then in the New Testament it came to pass, he was born unto a virgin Mary, in Bethlehem. He led a wonderful life spreading the message, helping many people throughout his life. Then even though he had done no wrong. Because his own people were jealous of him. They led him to death upon Calvary (Golgotha). Where he was wounded for our transgressions, with nails through his feet and hands, and his side was pierced with a sword.

Other documents point to Jesus' existence, his divinity is questioned, but he is divine. Just as Isaiah foretold. The New Testament was written by his close followers known as the Apostles. Such as Peter, Paul, Matthew, and many others. Notice the internal consistency even though the Old and New Testament were written over approximately 1400 years.

Let us go back in time to when Joseph lived. His life is found in the Book of Genesis in the Old Testament.

From the verses in Genesis 41:1-7

"Behold, he stood by the river. And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favored kine and fattened; and they fed in a meadow. And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill favored and leanfleshed; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river. And the ill favored and leanfleshed kine did eat up the seven well favored and fat kine."

I left out a few important details to show you how if we grab only part of the Bible and not it all. We can tend to misjudge. This is how the Bible is tended to be picked apart. The Bible needs to be studied, and evaluated. Like something you really want to know and understand. We need to gather all the information then try to judge even then this is not always enough.

Kine are like cows. How could a cow eat another cow?

Well that's not really possible what this is, is a dream. An Egyptian Pharaoh had this dream. He later asked Joseph to tell him what this dream meant. It was interpreted through Joseph by God. The dream meant seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. (And, that interpretation of the dream did come to pass.)

Is the Bible for us? It is. Many scientists have theorized how we became and many theories are out there. The Bible tells in detail how we became and of our ultimate destiny.

The one theory is that we came from ooze and then evolved into apes then into humans. There is a breach between us and any other creatures. Yes some other creatures can know right and wrong, your pet for instance. A ape can learn this also.

But our understanding is far beyond that we have something

in us that can not be explained. Our conscience takes us farther and our reasoning also. We know even though it is somewhat dependent on the culture there are things beyond that are not.

This is why the Ten Commandments are in the Bible also. Thou shalt not kill. We know this for a fact, it causes something to happen inside of us. We get this nagging of guilt, of wrong.

Apes on the other hand will even kill a young ape, just because it is from another male ape.

Whereas we will go a mile and beyond to help someone we do not know. This is because we our descendants of Adam and Eve. Who were made by God.

The Bible is there for everyone. I have learned alot through this essay. I hope it will help guide you into studying the Bible for the first time or going deeper into the Bible. Hopefully finding out what the Bible means to you through God.

Some factual information from Delton Gene Koehn, Dennis Kirkland, Roger Williams, and Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary.