

7 Seven Questions

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Study Guide 3|19|17 Why Trust the Bible? fb/ig @thestoryhouston @pastorerichuffman www.thestory.church

Guiding Questions for Chapter Groups, Family or Solo Study:

How would you rate your level of trust when it comes to the Bible?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

10

No trust I trust it like I trust the I trust it but what's

said it I trust Congress New Testament up w/Leviticus?

believe it

Where do you think your trust (or lack of trust) in the Bible comes from?

Personal experience? Your upbringing? Your education?

Let's take a quick look into how the Bible came into existence.

First, the Hebrew Bible, also known as the Old Testament:

The Torah: first five books, known as "the Law"

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Why were these books included?

History: 12 books that offer context and detail the Jewish story

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chron.,

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Which of these books was disputed, and why?

Poetry and Wisdom: 5 books about God & the human condition

Job, Psalms, Song of Songs, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes

Why do you think poetry, music, art, and wisdom are

included in the Bible? Aren't Law and History enough?

Prophets: 17 books on social criticism, spiritual conscience

Major: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

Minor: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum,

Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

What was the role of the prophets in ancient Israel?

Now, let's look at how we got the New Testament:

+ 35-50 AD _____

How do we know these pre-gospels existed?

+ 40-68 AD _____

Why did Paul, Peter, James, John, and Jude write these letters?

Scripture and Quotes:

"It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me. It's the parts I do understand." - Mark Twain

G "I read novels, but I also read the Bible. And
I study it, you know? And the more I learn,
the more excited I get." - Johnny Cash

"The book to read is not the one which thinks for you, but the one which makes you think. No book in the world equals the Bible for that." - Harper Lee

"The Bible is the rock on which this Republic rests." - Andrew Jackson

"...man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." - Deuteronomy 8:3

"But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you from me.'" - Ruth 1:16-18

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." - Psalm 23

"In the day of salvation, I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for all people, to restore the land, to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!'" - Isaiah 49:8-9

"Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for

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+ 67-70 AD _____

Why are there four *different* gospels instead of just one?

+ 80-85 AD _____

How (and why) is John's gospel so different from the others?

What were the criteria for selecting which books belonged?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

By the end of the first century, which of these books were already being called "scripture"?

Which books were disputed and why?

Does knowing more about this process change your level of trust in the Bible at all? Why or why not?

What is the Bible for?

+ _____
How does the Bible reflect diversity?

+ _____
What's the role of beauty in Scripture?

+ _____
What does justice look like in the Bible?

+ _____
Why is it important to read the Bible through the lens of Jesus?

More than anything, the Bible is a _____ about _____ and _____ for _____.

As you think about the Bible as the story of God's love, what questions remain for you? How do you feel God might be calling you to play your part in his story?

you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." - Luke 1:1-4

"The Word became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's only son, full of grace and truth." - John 1:14

"...from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness..." - 2 Timothy 3:16

"...just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction." - 2 Peter 3:15-16 (Peter calls Paul's letters "scripture")

"On the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things. Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people assent, saying Amen; and there is a distribution to each, and a participation of that over which thanks have been given, and to those who are absent a portion is sent by the deacons. And they who are well to do, and willing, give what each thinks fit."

- Justin Martyr, writing in 140 AD, referring to the gospels and the Old Testament as scripture used in worship



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