

The Perfect Story: A Skeptic's Guide to the Bible

FALL-WINTER 2019 Series @ The Story Houston

Find out more about The Story Church: www.thestory.church YouTube/Fb/Ig: @thestoryhouston

Find out more about Pastor Eric Huffman: erichuffman.org Fb/ig: @pastorerichuffman Tw: @ericthestory

12/8/19 - Pt. 5: Is the Bible Too Tainted to Be Trusted?

Today's question has to do with the idea that the Bible has been corrupted by human hands, either because it was written by men with agendas, or because of the many times it has been translated throughout history. Have you ever struggled with trusting the Bible's accuracy? How have you handled those questions and doubts as they've come up?

1. Wasn't the Bible Written by Religious Men with Agendas?

Who were the authors of the Bible? What are the problems with the "evil agenda theory"?

2. How Much of the Original Text Was Lost in Translation?

Compared to the earliest manuscripts of the text, what significant changes have been made to the Bible over time? What does this tell you about the "lost in translation theory"?

3. But Doesn't the Bible Contain Many Internal Inconsistencies?

What are some examples of the internal inconsistencies in the Bible?

Why do these inconsistencies not represent a threat to Biblical authority?

The Bible through the Jesus Lens

It's easy to allow the Bible's more difficult passages to obscure how we read its bigger, more important themes. For example, you might come across a law in Leviticus that you find repulsive, and you may then project those feelings onto the rest of the Bible, including Jesus. But what if, instead of allowing the obscure details to cloud our judgment about the whole Bible, we allowed the clarity of the Bible's key claims about Jesus to clarify our understanding of the rest of Scripture - including the parts that are difficult to understand?

What does it mean to read the Bible through the lens of Jesus?

Bible Passages from Today's Message

Genesis 22:1-14 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love - Isaac - and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

Isaiah 53:4-7 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

1 Corinthians 5:7 ...for Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

Your notes: