

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

FALL-WINTER 2019 Series @ The Story Houston

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12/22/19 - Pt. 7: Is the Bible Too Good to Be True?

Sometimes we're inclined to read the Bible through a lens of suspicion because we've heard that it's a perfect book about a perfect man. Have you ever felt apprehensive about trusting the Bible because it seems too good to be true?

If It Sounds Too Good to Be True...

...it probably is. That's what we've been told, right? Who are some of the "perfect" people that fell from grace in your lifetime?

Can you remember a time when you fell for something (or someone) that was "too good to be true"? How did that experience leave you feeling?

But What if There Was One?

Christianity's claim is that, amid all the frauds and pretenders who have let us down, there is one story that is true and trustworthy, and one person who is perfect. Do you buy that? Why or why not?

Why does it matter that the Bible contains 66 books, written by 40+ authors, in three languages, on three continents, over 1,500 years?

Aren't Other Holy Books Just as Good?

What are some key differences between the Bible and other holy books, such as the Quran and the Book of Mormon?

Why do 40+ independent witnesses lend credence to the Bible story?

The Cliffnotes Version

How would you describe the entire Bible story in just a few lines?

Bible Passages from Today's Message

Genesis 1:31

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

Romans 8:20-22

For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Isaiah 32:1 See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice.

Isaiah 53:1-6 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

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.

Luke 24:27, 44-45 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. "Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures."

Romans 3:25-26 "God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Your notes: