

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION – Part 1



### **\*Why can you be confident that the Bible is the Word of God?**

#### **1. Its \_\_\_\_\_.**

The Bible is a collection of \_\_\_\_\_ (39 in the Old Testament & 27 in the New Testament) written over \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ different authors (from all walks of life) in \_\_\_\_\_ different languages (Hebrew; Aramaic; Greek) on \_\_\_\_\_ different continents (Africa, Asia, and Europe) yet \_\_\_\_\_ when properly understood, which attests to its divine origin and authority.

- What are some verses that make this claim?

#### **2. Its \_\_\_\_\_.**

The Bible (like no other 'holy book') has staked its claim of divine inspiration on the line by predicting hundreds of specific prophecies that have exactly been fulfilled as God promised, again supporting its divine origin and authority.

- How does this compare to other religions?
- How many prophecies were fulfilled in Christ's first coming?
- What were some of them? Jesus Christ's predicted ...
  
- Note: All these prophecies were fulfilled using language in a normal, plain, literal way – not with some hidden, allegorical meaning.
- Note: All of these prophecies were fulfilled in specific detail hundreds of years after their prediction.
- What does this indicate? \_\_\_\_\_ as only God can predict the future with this kind of amazing accuracy and detail!

3. Its \_\_\_\_\_.

The Bible is unique in its \_\_\_\_\_ to be the very Word of God (over 4,000x), in its \_\_\_\_\_ (1000s of manuscripts and translations), in its \_\_\_\_\_ (salvation by grace vs. works), and in its description of its \_\_\_\_\_ (exposing their vices as well as their virtues).



4. \_\_\_\_\_.

The archaeological spade is a friend and not a foe in repeatedly verifying biblical accounts regarding the historicity of biblical people groups (like the Hittites), ancient biblical cities (like Jericho), and ancient biblical characters (like Abraham).

5. The \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus Christ believed \_\_\_\_\_ part of God's Word would be fulfilled. (Matthew 5:18)

Jesus Christ believed the Bible was the product of the \_\_\_\_\_ using true human prophets. (Mark 12:36)

Jesus Christ believed that the Scriptures could be \_\_\_\_\_ and that you are a \_\_\_\_\_ of your ignorance of them. (Matthew 22:29)

Approximately \_\_\_\_\_ of the words of Jesus Christ in the New Testament are quotes from the Old Testament which reveal His belief in the Bible's truthfulness and fulfillment.

Jesus Christ believed in the \_\_\_\_\_ authorship of all the Pentateuch (Genesis – Deuteronomy) as attested in Matthew 19:3, 22:24; Mark 1:44, 7:10, 10:3; Luke 2:22, 24:27, 24:44) and that Isaiah wrote all of Isaiah.

Jesus Christ believed in the literal Old Testament accounts of ...

- ... Adam and Eve and the divine origin of marriage (Matthew 19:3-4)
- ... Noah and the world-wide Flood (Matthew 24:37-38)
- ... Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Matthew 22:32)
- ... The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Matthew 10:15)
- ... Moses and the burning bush (Mark 12:26)
- ... Moses and the 10 Commandments (John 7:19)
- ... King David (Matthew 12:3)
- ... Queen of Sheba & King Solomon (Matthew 12:42)
- ... Jonah swallowed by a great fish (Matthew 12:39-41)

I. EXAMINING A KEY PASSAGE ON BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

A. 2 TIMOTHY 2:15 - "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15, NKJV)

1. The *activity* needed for you to communicate accurately God's Word is first of all to \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God.
2. The *accountability* of your studying/teaching is seen by the need to "*present yourself \_\_\_\_\_*."
3. The *aim* of your studying/teaching involves seeking to be "*a worker who \_\_\_\_\_*."
4. The *accuracy* of your studying/teaching is emphasized by the phrase \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The *authority* for your teaching involves communication of the \_\_\_\_\_.

B. 2 TIMOTHY 2:7 - "Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things." (2 Timothy 2:7, NKJV)

1. The *human side* of correctly understanding the Scriptures necessitates that you carefully \_\_\_\_\_ it.
2. The *divine side* of correct biblical interpretation requires that "*the \_\_\_\_\_ gives you \_\_\_\_\_ in all these things.*"

\* How does the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit play an important role in all this?

\* How does prayer factor into biblical interpretation?