

sermon study summary

Come and See Weekend – Why Believe in the Bible? Part 3

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As we continue to look at the reason why Christians believe in the Bible, we can rest assured that this Precious Word of God provides ALL the essentials we need to learn about God; it furnishes answers to life's deepest questions about: who God is and how we can accept Him as our Lord and Saviour, and our friend. Through it, we learn who *we* are, why we exist, how to live life to the full, deal with regret and shame, and how we can prepare for the next life. We can be confident that not only is the Bible our *manual for living*, but that it is true, reliable and completely trustworthy!

We've examined three testimonies so far: (1) The supreme reason Christians believe the Bible is **The Word of God**, is because we trust and accept that Jesus Christ is GOD THE SON, who consistently communicated respect for the OT Scriptures, endorsing them as God's authoritative Word. Furthermore, He made provision for the writing of the NT Scriptures by appointing, empowering and authorizing His apostles to do the same. (2) The length of time the Bible has been in existence, and that it is the most published, translated and best-selling book in history, persevering through the ages despite extreme opposition. (3) We learn how the science of archaeology found thousands of ancient cities and civilizations, not recorded in secular history books, but found in the Bible.

Our fourth witness is the testimony of the **Prophets**, who make specific and detailed predictions about the future. Isaiah 41 says that the TRUE GOD is **the only one capable of knowing the future**; and God, centuries before these predictions came true, gave us hundreds of prophecies in His Word. Some of these are found in Daniel, Isaiah, 2nd Chronicles, etc. Ezekiel made specific prophecies concerning SCORES of ancient cities (with whom Israel dealt). Josh McDowell, a skilled atheist lawyer, strove to prove the Bible was wrong. One prophecy he examined was about the City of Tyre. However, he was overwhelmed when through his careful research he discovered that *each of Ezekiel's prophecies about Tyre was fulfilled with stunning accuracy, hundreds of years after Ezekiel's death*. McDowell came to Christ after all his research and wrote a book about his discoveries. Another example are the more than 300 prophecies in the Old Testament, which were fulfilled in Jesus Christ!

When you read and reflect on the vivid descriptions of who *The Messiah* is, you simply have to accept the fact that JESUS IS THE MESSIAH, OUR LORD, SAVIOUR AND KING. Isaiah 53 vividly describes what Jesus did for us – CHRIST suffered inordinate pain, shame and death because He loved us **unconditionally**, and died so that we might have eternal life!

God is JUST, and as sinners, we deserve to be punished accordingly. Since we're incapable of paying for our sins, God sent His son **JESUS**, God the Son, the Lamb of God, who is WORTHY and ABLE to take away our sins. **JESUS BECAME SIN for our sake!** Our sins were placed on Christ, and the perfect righteousness of Christ was placed on us, THEREBY making us righteous and pure in God's sight!

Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth and the life. NO ONE comes to the Father except through me.*" Let us pray, and put our trust in Jesus, becoming new creations in Christ!

THE WORD (NIV)

Isaiah 41:21-22

²¹ "Present your case," says the LORD.

"Set forth your arguments," says Jacob's King.

²² "Tell us, you idols, what is going to happen.

Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome.

Or declare to us the things to come,

Isaiah 53:2-12

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God,

stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

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sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Are weather predictions right all the time? If not, what does it say about anyone stating that something will happen next year? In 10 years? In 20 years?
2. Why do you think people are more prone to consult a horoscope, zodiac or psychic rather than the Bible?

UP – PURSUE GOD

3. In Isaiah 41:21-22, why does God challenge other 'gods' to predict the future? How accurate are God's predictive prophecies? What does that mean for our relationship with Him?
4. Read Isaiah 53:2-12. Make a list of the character qualities and nature of the person described here. Where do you see these qualities and nature exhibited in and fulfilled by Jesus?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. What verses from Isaiah 53 would you use to explain the Gospel to someone who doesn't understand? How would you explain the prophecy from Isaiah and what God has done for you and me?
6. Hearing how history unfolded to fulfill God's prophecies can make one go, "Whoa!" What has been your 'whoa' moment in Scripture that clinched it for you that the Bible is true and God real?

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

Are you fully convinced that the Bible is true, reliable and trustworthy? If not, what would it take to convince you? If yes, what has persuaded you?

Take time this week to examine what is said in Isaiah 53:2-12 that describes the life of Jesus in the Gospels. Give worth to God the Father and Jesus the Son for their involvement in these events and Scripture.

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⁷ 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.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he
was taken away.

Yet who of his generation
protested?

For he was cut off from the land of
the living;

for the transgression of my
people he was punished.

⁹ He was assigned a grave with the
wicked,

and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to
crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his
life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong
his days,

and the will of the LORD will
prosper in his hand.

¹¹ After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be
satisfied;

by his knowledge my righteous
servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will give him a portion
among the great,

and he will divide the spoils with
the strong,

because he poured out his life unto
death,

and was numbered with the
transgressors.

For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the
transgressors.

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