

Friday

Read Psalm 119: 97–101. According to this verse, what benefits are there from meditating daily on God's word (as you are doing right now!)?

Read the following verses and answer: What is the fundamental mistake Jesus is pointing out here? Matthew 22:29; Mark 12:24; Matthew 21:42.

What do these verses tell you about the importance of knowing the Word?

Thank God again today for His word! Spend some extra time meditating on a passage today — just thinking about it, praying about it — perhaps the Psalm 119 passage above!

Saturday

Please look over the devotions and finish any you may have missed. Polish up the memory verse, and pray for us this weekend as we cover the topic "Why does a loving, all-powerful God allow suffering?"



TWIN LAKES
CHURCH
www.tlc.org

F.A.Q.

Is the Bible Reliable?

APRIL 28 & 29, 2012 • RENÉ & LAURIE SCHLAEPFER

A MAP showing the Bible's reliability:

M

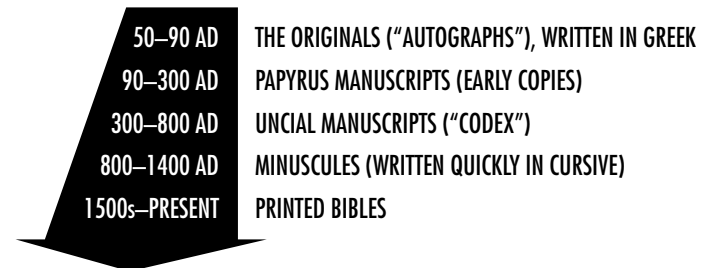
THE OLD TESTAMENT

How do we know our O.T. even resembles the ancient copies?

The amazing discovery of the dead sea scrolls!

"The scrolls have shown that our traditional Bible has been amazingly well preserved for over 2,000 years." —Eugene Ulrich, Notre Dame professor and chief editor of the Dead Sea texts for Oxford University

THE NEW TESTAMENT



So how do we know our N.T. even resembles the ancient copies?

New manuscript discoveries by the thousands!

"The remaining interval between the date of writing and the earliest manuscript evidence is so small as to be negligible. The last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed." —Sir Frederick Kenyon, former director, British Library

- The New Testament has better manuscript evidence than _____ ancient book
- Only about _____% of the text is in doubt
- _____ central doctrine of the Christian faith is affected

A

Among the examples of amazing discoveries:

TEL DAN INSCRIPTION OF "DAVID": "A tremendously important find that will certainly cause anxiety for skeptics." —Professor of archaeology James K. Hoffmeier

SOLOMON'S CITIES: "Here is a dramatic instance of archaeology turning up actual structures mentioned specifically in the Bible." —William Dever, professor of archaeology, University of Arizona

PONTIUS PILATE INSCRIPTION (Confirms Matt. 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19)

"It can be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference." —Nelson Glueck, famed Israeli archaeologist

P

Among many examples:

TYRE (Ezekiel 26)

PROPHECY: To be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, many nations will attack, made like a bare rock, fishermen will spread nets, debris thrown into water. All this is exactly fulfilled.

NINEVEH (Book of Nahum)

PROPHECY: To be destroyed in floods, inhabitants drunk, gates dissolved, burned down, never to be rebuilt. All this is exactly fulfilled.

JESUS

Over 300 references to the Messiah in Hebrew Scriptures were fulfilled in Jesus.

So What?

[Jesus said:] "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." *John 5:39–40*

"There is no magic in . . . the mechanical reading of the Bible. The written Word points to the Living Word and says to us, 'go to Jesus'. If we do not go to the Jesus to whom it points, we miss the whole purpose of Bible reading. We do not worship the Bible; we worship the Christ of the Bible. We love it only because we love him of whom it speaks." —John Stott

Resources for Further Study

Is The New Testament Reliable? A Look at the Historical Evidence Paul Barnett

Hidden Gospels: How the Search for Jesus Lost Its Way Philip Jenkins

Jesus and His World: The Archaeological Evidence Craig Evans

The Real Jesus Luke Timothy Johnson

Is the Bible True? Jeffery L. Sheler

The Historical Reliability of the Gospels Craig Blomberg

Also see: *Biblical Archaeology Review journal*

NEXT WEEKEND:
Questions About Hell

Monday

According to the following verses, what is Scripture good for?

Hebrews 4:12:

Acts 18:28:

Romans 15:4:

2 Timothy 3:14–17:

If Scripture is so profitable, why then do you suppose more Christians don't know it well?

Thank God today for the priceless gift of the Bible! Ask Him to help you discipline yourself so you may know it better.

Tuesday

Read Psalm 119:105. According to this verse, the Bible gives me guidelines for life, as well as a goal to live for. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3 and 5:18, and 1 Peter 2:15. What is the revealed will of God for your life in these passages?

Why do we sometimes we live as if we don't believe God has revealed His will for us in Scripture?

Thank God for the grace and mercy we see in Scripture, as well as the clear principles for life. Ask God to help you live by His revealed purpose for your life!

Wednesday

The Bible gives me power: Power to resist temptation and live a Christ-like life! Read Psalm 119:9–11. What does this passage say is the key to resisting temptation?

Read Matthew 4:1–10. How does Jesus practice Psalm 119:9–11? What does this teach you about resisting sin?

Ask God to help you memorize Scripture so you can stand strong!

Thursday

The Bible gives me peace when I go through trials. Read Psalms 85:8; 119:114, 148.

How is God's word a refuge and shield when I meditate on its promises in times of trouble?

Have you ever had an experience when God's promises in Scripture helped you through a tough time? What happened? What specific promise helped?

Remember, it's pointless for all those comforting promises to be in the Bible if we don't know them!

Thank God today for His promises and comfort! Bring to Him the things that are robbing you of peace, and claim His promises right now for those circumstances!



Memory Verse

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16–17