

How Do We Know the Bible Is True?

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References: **Leviticus 6-13**, Job 26:7; Job 36:27-28; Leviticus 6:28; Leviticus 7:24; Leviticus 13:46; Deuteronomy 23:12-13; Isaiah 40:22; Isaiah 53:11; Jeremiah 17:1; Jeremiah 17:9; Acts 16:30-31

Okay. So the Bible speaks about being true, and we want to think this morning, how do we know the Bible is true? What evidence does the Bible give? And that's our theme for the conference or this week of DDBS: How do we know the Bible is true?

So I want to look at one particular thing with you about how we know the Bible is true.

Advanced Scientific Knowledge

Now, one of the great tests that the Bible is true is if the Bible has advanced knowledge of things that we, as the most advanced scientists, the smartest people in the world, in our world, that the Bible knew things for hundreds of years before they knew it. Now, how would that be possible? How could the Bible know certain things hundreds and thousands of years before scientists knew them? How could that be? How could the Bible have that knowledge? How could these human authors have that knowledge?

The only way they could have that knowledge is if God put that knowledge into their minds thousands of years before, and they put it into a book. That's one of the reasons we should believe the Bible, shouldn't we?

Now let's look at a couple of things. Let's think about this. Now, you can turn to this verse if you like, but I have the verse right here. Now this was 1800 years B.C. is when Job wrote this in the Bible—Book of Job, oldest book of the Bible. It says this:

[Job 26:7 NKJV] - He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.

And notice this part: He hangs, He suspends the earth on nothing. Now, when did modern science agree that the earth is suspended on nothing, nothing holding it up? You know, the

ancients believed that it was held up on turtles, giant turtles, with elephants on top of the turtles holding the earth in place. Now, when did modern science discover that? So here, 1800 years before the birth of Christ, modern science discovered this in 1542—almost 3,000 or more years later. Astronomer Copernicus discovered, he said the earth hangs literally on nothing, floating in space. People laughed at him and mocked him that that was true, but that's what the Bible says.

Now there's something else. In Isaiah, 750 years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah 40:22 says this:

[Isaiah 40:22 NKJV] - It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

So the earth is a globe. The earth is a sphere, and people are like grasshoppers. Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. So 750 years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah said that the earth is a sphere; it's a circle.

Now, what did most people believe for many, many years? In fact, it wasn't until Magellan, who circumnavigated the earth, that they discovered the earth is a circle. They used to believe, when Christopher Columbus wanted to discover the New World and he was going to go to the direction of North America, you know what they said was going to happen? It would fall off the edge of the earth because they didn't believe it was a circle.

So here, about 1480—about 750 years before that, Isaiah says the earth is a circle. Advanced knowledge. God has advanced knowledge of these scientific facts, or these facts about our earth, way before, thousands of years before modern science came to that view.

The Hydrological Cycle

But look at this little scientific fact. This is called the hydrological cycle. You know, we are very thankful for the hydrological cycle. And you know what the hydrological cycle is. So we have rain that comes down to the earth, and it moisturizes, it gives us moisture on our earth. It gives moisture to our plants and our grass. And sometimes there's a rain for a long time, and we want it to rain, we want it to rain, and so then it evaporates through sunshine, and it goes back into the heavens, and then it stays in the heavens until cold moisture comes, and then it drops down, and we have this whole cycle of God giving moisture to the earth.

Notice Job said this. Job said this 1,800 years before the birth of Christ. Notice what he said. He says:

[Job 36:27-28 NKJV] - ²⁷ For He draws up drops of water, Which distill as rain from the mist, ²⁸ Which the clouds drop down And pour abundantly on man.

Well, what does that sound like? That's the hydrological cycle. Now when did modern science discover this? When did they understand this began to happen? You may know it now, and we understand it now, but modern science didn't understand that until Bernard Palissy discovered it in 1580. He is the discoverer of the modern theory of the water cycle. 1,500 years after the birth of Christ, modern science discovered something that's in the Bible already.

Medical Principles and Sanitation

This man's name is a funny name. I don't know if we would want a name like this, but Ignaz —Ignaz Semmelweis. He's described as the savior of mothers. Ignaz Semmelweis discovered that there was a coincidence of fever, a childhood fever, that would develop drastically in hospitals if you didn't wash your hands after you treated other patients. The fever was very common in the 1850s, and the mortality rates of babies was about 15%. Every one mother that went to the hospital, one and a half died; sometimes up to 35% died. So you went to the hospital, your baby could not survive, they may not survive.

Semmelweis proposed the practice of washing your hands. He said wash it with chlorinated lime solution in 1847 while working in Vienna's General Hospital. Know what happened to him? I don't have all of it on the screen. They fired him. They fired him because they didn't want to spend any extra time; they didn't think it was worth it.

Now let me ask you, should you wash your hands? Should a doctor wash his hands, or a dentist wash his hands, or should you wear plastic gloves when you're treating someone in the hospital? Absolutely, because we know today that there's germs passed on from one person to another person, and so we do that. They didn't know in 1847—that's not that long ago—they didn't understand the passing on from germs from one person to another using our hands. And we know all about that during COVID. We wear gloves, we wear masks, and we wash our hands because we don't want to pass a germ onto someone else.

Well, the Bible talked about this way before Ignaz Semmelweis discovered it. How is it that the Bible understood about germs thousands of years before modern science? Look at something in the Bible. This is in Leviticus chapter 6 and verse 28. Here's what it says:

[Leviticus 6:28 NKJV] - But the earthen vessel in which it is boiled shall be broken. And if it is boiled in a bronze pot, it shall be both scoured and rinsed in water.

Now it's talking about those who would cook. Look. You know, the Bible has so much information about it. It has information about salvation. It has information about the Lord Jesus Christ. It has information about creation. It has information about some scientific facts. It's filled with information. It has information about Israel. It has information about the future, information about the past. But here it's about cooking. And look what it says here, 1,600 years before the birth of Christ: the clay pot where meat is cooked in must be broken after it's used. The clay pot that meat is cooked in must be broken. But if it is cooked in a bronze pot, the pot should be washed, scoured, and rinsed with water.

Now, why does God tell these Israelites when they're cooking food in a clay pot that that clay pot should be destroyed? You know, these young men here or later in this row over here, why would he say destroy the pot? Destroy the clay pot. I know you know, just a little afraid to speak up.

Because that clay pot, when it's cooked in, can get cracks, very hairline cracks, and germs can get into that crack. And if it's used again, the person who uses it can get sick, or maybe they can die. So don't use it again because it has germs in it. But a bronze pot—well, a bronze pot, you can't get cracks in it. A metal pot that we use today, you can't get cracks in, so you can use it over and over and over again.

Now what the Bible is teaching here is the whole idea of germs, bacteria, that if we ingest it or it comes into our body, we can get very, very sick. A small bit of bacteria, small germ can get into our human bodies and we can get very, very sick. So the Bible says get rid of it. Don't use it again. "I want to protect you from getting very, very sick." And he's speaking about germs that wasn't really even discovered until 1847 in our modern world. Isn't it interesting that God had advanced knowledge? The Bible has advanced knowledge to things we haven't discovered for thousands of years in the future.

Look at Leviticus 7:24, more about bacteria:

[Leviticus 7:24 NKJV] - And the fat of an animal that dies naturally, and the fat of what is torn by wild beasts, may be used in any other way; but you shall by no means eat it.

You can take the hide of it, you can dry it out, you can use that, but don't eat it. Now, why would he say don't eat it? It's a dead animal; you can take it and go cook it. Now, we call that today—and I'm sure no one eats that here—a roadkill. Right? A car hits it, somehow another animal attacks it, it's laying there, a nice piece of beef, nice whatever it may be. Well, we don't eat it. Now, why is that? Because it's got germs. It's got bacteria—very, very deadly, very sick.

Leviticus, 1600 years B.C., He said, don't eat. You can do anything else with that animal, but don't eat from it. Why? Because of bacteria. The Bible has advanced knowledge about things that we haven't discovered, the modern world has not discovered for thousands of years.

Doesn't that suggest that the Bible is true? If this is true and this has advanced knowledge, how much more is everything else in the Bible true? How much more can we trust the Bible? Its origin is divine. Its origin is from God. The information that is put into the Bible is from God Himself, and we know that because of advanced knowledge and prophecy and many other areas.

People say the Bible is old-fashioned. The Bible is out of date, but the Bible is more in date than it ever has before. What was out of date is what science discovered in 1847, or just a little bit before 1847. They thought they were very modern in their thinking, but the Bible was far in advance of all the knowledge that they had before that.

Now this is a military illustration. So the Bible in Deuteronomy 23:12-13 says if you're in an army camp and you have to go to the bathroom, what do you do? Notice what it says:

[Deuteronomy 23:12-13 NKJV] - ¹² "Also you shall have a place outside the camp, where you may go out; ¹³ and you shall have an implement among your equipment, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig with it and turn and cover your refuse.

You go outside the camp. You have a shovel with you. You sit down, you dig a hole, and you place the excrement there and cover it over far away from anybody else. Now many, many armies, even many cities, thousands of people died because they didn't do that. In cities,

they didn't remove human waste. They put it into the water system, put it into the streets, poured it out windows down to the street below and hoping rain would wash it away. Many people got very, very sick.

Plagues and Quarantine

Let me give you another illustration. Again, the Bible far in advance. It's a very interesting story. Does anybody know what the Black Plague is? Black Plague happened in the 1300s and 1400s. In the 1400s, I think one-third of the population of Europe died. When I was young—I don't know if this is sung anymore—there was a little chorus we'd even sing 50 years ago where it says, "Ring around the rosy, pocket full of posy, ashes, ashes, we all fall down." What is that about? It is said that that little song goes all the way back to the 1400s, to Black Death. Bubonic plague—60 million people died. Now why did they die? A third of the population of Europe died. Why did they die?

Now in the ancient world, in the biblical Old Testament world, there were plagues, and there was information the Bible had to stop the plague. Now what happened was rodents came onto ships, and they began to bring disease with them, and they went into cities, and they multiplied, and they got more and more sick. And many, many people died.

A Columbia University professor—now I want to say this: if you're interested in more of this kind of information, and this is where I've gotten this little bit of information, is a book. It's a very good book. It's called *None of These Diseases*, and it's still available today, and it's by S.I. McMillen, the author. S.I. McMillen wrote this book, *None of These Diseases*, filled with so much information about how the Bible is filled with scientific medical facts that goes far in advance of modern science. He's a medical doctor. And this is a quotation from his book. He says a Columbia University professor of public health says this: "How was Black Death, how was the bubonic plague stopped? It was stopped through biblical information. According to this university professor, leadership was taken by the church as physicians had nothing to offer. The church took as its guiding principle the concept of contagion." It's contagious; certain diseases are contagious.

As found in the Old Testament, defined and set forth in much clarity in Leviticus 13, it accomplished the first great feat of the methodical eradication of disease. How do we stop a plague? Now, here's the three things it says, three basic things that it says in Leviticus 13. Now, Leviticus 13 is about disease, but it's about leprosy and other types of diseases that can be passed from one person to another.

Three things. First of all: separation. We would call that quarantine today. What happened during COVID? If you were sick, you would stay home. You would wear a mask and you

would stay home. You wouldn't go out in the public. You would separate yourself; you would quarantine yourself.

[Leviticus 13:46 NKJV] - He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.

Then you should take your garments, and you should get rid of those that are contagious, those that may have bacteria and germs in them. You take them out and you burn them. Sometimes you bury them. You get rid of that old clothing; get rid of things that may have disease in them. And then you wash new garments. You wash them where the plague is, and then you wait seven more days before you come back into the public again. Quarantine, burning your clothing, washing them, washing yourself—they used these three different aspects.

So the Bible had information about what to do when there was a plague. Modern science didn't understand that. The 1400s, when Black Plague, bubonic plague came, they didn't understand that.

Ancient Egyptian Medicine vs. Biblical Wisdom

I want to look at this last little bit. So this is called the Ebers Papyrus. It is a number of ancient writings on scrolls that are in a museum now in Leipzig, Germany. And it is considered the oldest medical papyri or medical writings in the history of the world that's from Egypt. And it speaks about what you do for medical remedies. Now I have a few of them on here. The reason I have it here is because this is about the same age as the Bible. This papyrus is about the same age, goes back to ancient Egypt.

It has a number of remedies. Now, we just went through some of the remedies of the Bible. Now, the remedies in the Bible, the information in the Bible, was far in advance of modern science. But now we want to look at what ancient Egypt had to say. Now, ancient Egypt was considered the most advanced scientific nation of its time. They had universities, they had libraries, they had medical doctors, they had great armies, they had great science about how to build pyramids. But when it came to medicine and when it came and compared it to the Bible, the Bible was far in advance of any medical information that Egypt had to offer.

Now, if you were to get a splinter in your finger and it got infected and your whole finger was swollen, in ancient Egypt, if you went to a doctor, here's what they would tell you: ointment

of the blood of a worm and the dung of a donkey. You mix it together and you put it on that wound and everything is okay. Would you try that? If you had a cut in your finger, you had a splinter? I don't think any of us would try that. But that's what they would tell them to do in ancient Egypt.

Now a tumor. You might see a tumor; you might see a little growth on a person's head or arm. What do you do? The remedy is the ointment made of fly dung mixed with the sap of the sycamore tree. Of course, that would not work very well.

Now this one is hair loss. I've never tried this. I have the problem of hair loss; maybe it has something to offer, but I've never tried it. The remedy is the ointment made of the fat of the horse and the cat and the crocodile and the snake and the donkey's tooth crushed, and mix it all in honey.

Now, this is the most advanced society! Now, just compare that. Just compare that with what the Bible says, what we've been looking at in the Bible about bacteria and about sickness and disease and quarantine. All those things we see in the Bible is what we do today in our modern world or in modern science. But this is the most advanced human understanding.

When you go to the Bible, it's giving us spiritual understanding. It's giving us advanced information because the author of the Bible is God Himself. He moved people to write; He gave information to people so they could understand what they should do.

It was very interesting: many ancient peoples—the Hittites, the Amorites, the Girgashites—many ancient peoples of the ancient world don't exist anymore. They did exist at one time, don't exist anymore. Isn't it very interesting that the Jewish people, an ancient, ancient, ancient people who lived at that same time, whom their God gave them tremendous information about how to survive? That's why this information is in here. It's primarily to give to Israel: how My people can survive disease, how My people can survive plague, how My people can survive war, how My people can survive all these things. It gave them information about disease, about germs and bacteria and quarantine and plagues. But we look at the societies around the same time: the Egyptians are still there, but these other societies are not there because they didn't have the same information, or they didn't follow the same information that God gave.

The Greatest Need: Salvation

God is the author of the Bible, and we are so, so thankful for what He tells us. Now, He's told us about how we can have eternal life. If all of this is true, if all this scientific background is true, how much more is what He tells us about a future life, about eternal life?

We had a verse yesterday, and the verse was this:

[Acts 16:30-31 NKJV] - ³⁰ And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

He said there's one thing, there's one most important thing that you have to do: believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. It's very simple. It's a very simple thing. It wasn't hard. He didn't tell them to do something very difficult, something very hard. He said just do one thing. He said really the Lord Jesus has done it all. The Lord Jesus has gone to the cross. The Lord Jesus has borne the penalty of our sins. The Lord Jesus Christ has suffered. He has died. He's paid the price that we should have paid. He went to the cross and He died. All of our sins were laid upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ bore the wrath of God without mercy, that we might enjoy the mercy of God without wrath. Well, that's what happened on the cross. He took our wrath; He took our punishment. Our sins were laid upon Him. And it says in Isaiah 53:

[Isaiah 53:11 NKJV] - He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

The Lord Jesus bore it all and the Father was satisfied. And He offers to us this gift of salvation, this gift of eternal life, and all we have to do is receive it. We have to acknowledge our sin. We have to say, "Yes, Father, we are sinners. We're going to a lost eternity." We have to acknowledge that we are sinners.

I want to close with this. There was a man named Watchman Nee. I don't know if you've ever heard of Watchman Nee. He was a Chinese man. He told a story. He used to be a school teacher, and they took a group of students to a lake to have a swimming outing. One of the students came running to him and said, "One of our classmates is going far, far, far out in the lake. He's beginning to drown. Can you go out and save him?" They were urging him, and he waited. He didn't go right away. And the classmates are tugging at his arms and yelling at him to go out and save this person, and he didn't go out. And you can see this person getting weaker, and finally, he goes out and he saves him. He rescues him from drowning, brings him to the shore.

And the students came to Mr. Nee and said, "Why did you wait so long?"

And here's what he said. He said only unless a person wants to get rescued from drowning can he be saved. Otherwise, he'll struggle and fight. Sometimes he'll try to save himself. Only when he recognizes that he needs someone to save him, to rescue him—there's nothing in his own self he could ever do, he's weak and is about to drown—can he be saved.

That's the same thing with us. Unless we come to the place where we acknowledge there's nothing that we can do to save ourselves, we need someone else to come and save us. And it says in that verse, "What must I do to be saved?" Believe. Acknowledge we can do nothing ourselves to be saved. We need to receive that gift of salvation in the person of the Lord Jesus.

I'm going to stop there, turn it back over to Brother Harold.

Concluding Remarks and Object Lesson

Harold Summers: Very quickly, I want you to listen carefully. I want you to answer the questions. Number one: did you learn something this morning that you didn't know before? Question number two: were any of you listening? Question number one: did you learn something this morning that you didn't know before?

Audience: No.

Harold Summers: Frankly, I've never seen such an intelligent audience in all my life! All right, I've got another question for you, and it goes like this: would you rather, if you were sick and you lived in ancient times, would you rather go to a doctor in Egypt or a doctor in Israel?

The rest of you don't know? None? Were you paying attention?

Audience: Yes.

Harold Summers: Okay, now. You're coming to 16th Avenue Gospel Chapel, and we're teaching you the Bible, and you have got to learn what you've been taught, and you've got to respond. I've got two other questions for you. Does Jesus love you?

Audience: Yes.

Harold Summers: How do you know?

Audience: I know.

Harold Summers: All right. Very good. Got a lot of other things to tell you, but we don't have time. Trevor, are you there? Hello. Roy, is Trevor there?

Roy: Yes.

Harold Summers: Trevor, say hello. Say hello. Okay, Trevor, can you carry on?

Trevor: Good evening, everyone, or good morning. Nice to be with you. Can you hear me?

Audience: Yes.

Trevor: Okay. When we think about the Bible and we think about all the excellent things it says, there's an interesting verse—I read it before, but I paid attention this time. It's in Jeremiah 17, verse 1. And it says there:

[Jeremiah 17:1 NKJV] - "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; With the point of a diamond it is engraved On the tablet of their heart, And on the horns of your altars,

And 600 years before Jesus came, the Bible says that they had to use a chisel with a diamond point. We use the same thing today: when you buy saw blades, when you buy drills, they all have carbon steel, and diamond is a little bit tougher than carbon, but it's exactly the same.

Now, how did Jeremiah know about that 600 years before Jesus came? The answer is because the book that David's been talking about, the Bible, is inspired by God. And it's full of information that, like this, they shouldn't have known that. They didn't know chemistry. They didn't know the structure of atoms. But there it is written in the Bible that they used pens of iron, which is a chisel, with a diamond edge on it. It's amazing.

But then a little bit further in Jeremiah chapter 17, it says:

[Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV] - "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

And that's what the Bible says about the heart, because we have a difficulty. And that's what? What do we believe? Do we believe what the Bible says, as David's sharing? Or where do we believe? Because sometimes people—I had a daughter, and we got this autograph, and the person wrote, "Follow your heart." Can we follow our hearts? Because the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Deceitful means you can't trust it.

If I were to tell this—you see, I have this heart. It's a hard heart. It's made out of wood. It's not made out of stone because I can't figure out how to make a heart out of stone. But if you were to tell this heart to stay, you know what it would do? Watch this. Stay. And you just can't trust it. If you tell it to fall, it stays. You tell it to stay, and it falls. You just can't trust your heart.

But you can trust the word of God. As some of you were saying, we know that Jesus loves me because the Bible tells me so. And the Bible tells us that God sees our hearts as being deceitful and exceedingly wicked, and nobody can trust it, and nobody can know it. But God wants to give us a brand new heart, a heart of flesh that He can write His word on, because it's going to be a love relationship. And so that when God changes our heart, it becomes not a deceitful heart, but a trustworthy heart, an obedient heart, something you can trust in.

So if you tell it to fall, your heart will fall. If you tell your heart to stay, it will stay. And if you were to tell the heart just to fall just a little bit, it can fall just a little bit. And if you tell it to fall a little bit more—thank you—it falls a little bit more. If you tell it to fall a little bit more, it falls a little bit more. And if you tell it to fall all the way, it falls all the way.

This is the way God works, changing the heart through a living and real relationship with Him based on the word of God. And so we put this into your hands, and we think: God can change the heart. My heart isn't satisfied, but God wants to give me a heart that is satisfied, satisfied completely with Him. And you can do that this morning by trusting in Jesus as your personal Savior.

So we ask God's blessing upon the meeting there and God's blessing upon you. The Lord bless you all.

Harold Summers: Thank you, Trevor. So if you were to go home this afternoon and you wanted a heart like that, could you make one this afternoon? You people don't really know how to respond, do you? Could you make one like that this afternoon? How? How? Of course you know. If you ask Jesus to give you a new heart, He will give you a new heart. And if you try to make one yourself, you'll probably cut your fingers trying, but you won't be able to do it. Only Jesus can give you a new heart. How do we know that? The Bible tells us so.

Closing Prayer

Lord, we pray that You'll bless us. We've heard a lot of amazing things this morning, Lord. And we've heard that there's a God in heaven. He even loves our bodies; He knows how to make us healthy. Frankly, He knows how to keep us alive, and He knows how to give us new life so that we can live forever. And Lord, we'd be terribly foolish to say, "I don't care."

The Bible says that if we believe in Jesus, we will have eternal life. The Bible says if we don't believe in Jesus, we will perish. Lord, may we have enough wisdom, enough intelligence, honesty, enough humility to turn from sin and ask Jesus to save us. If You could tell the Israelites in the old days how to keep from getting sick, You can tell us how to have our sins forgiven and go to heaven and be saved.

And that's what we pray for everyone. We give thanks: thanks for Trevor, thanks for David, thanks for the truth of God, thanks for today, thanks for the snack. We give thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.