

Lesson 11: Is The New Testament True? (Continued)

Who is Jesus? (C.S. Lewis)

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish things that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who is merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would rather be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell...."

"...You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not let that open to us. He did not intend to."

C.S. Lewis

Mere Christianity pp. 55-56

What books should be in the Bible?

SEVEN THINGS JESUS TAUGHT About The Old Testament

1. It Is Divinely Authoritative (Mt 4:4, 7, 10)
2. It Is Imperishable (Mt 5:17-18)
3. It Is Infallible (Jn 10:35)
4. It Is Inerrant (*without error*) (Mt. 22:29)
5. It Is Historically Reliable (Mt. 12:40; 24:37-38)
6. It Is Scientifically Accurate (Mt. 19:4-5)
7. It Has Ultimate Supremacy (Mt. 15:3,6)

CHRIST VS. THE CRITICS

Christ Affirmed and Critics Deny:

***Daniel was a prophet

***God created Adam and Eve

***Jonah was swallowed by a great fish

***World was drowned in a flood

***One prophet wrote Isaiah

JESUS AFFIRMED The Old Testament

1. Beginning at Moses....., he expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (Luke 24:27)
2. The Scriptures.... Testify of Me. (John 5:39)
3. From... Abel to Zechariah (Mt. 23:35)
4. Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets.... (Mt. 5:17-18)
5. "It is Written...." The authority of the Old Testament is cited this way 92 times in the NT.

JESUS PROMISED The New Testament

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would teach the apostles "all things" and lead them into "all truth".

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." - John 14:26

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever he hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." - John 16:13

WHAT BOOKS Should Be In The New Testament?

"The canon is a list of authoritative books more than it is an authoritative list of books."
Bruce Metzger, Princeton University

What should be in the Bible is not determined by us, it is discovered by us. What should be in the Bible are the books God inspired, and we must discover what they are.

DISCOVERING THE CANON

***Was it written by a prophet of God? Or someone who knew (and was associated with a prophet of God who confirmed the message).

***Was the writer confirmed by acts of God or someone who was confirmed as an eyewitness (e.g. Paul confirmed Luke)?

***Was it accepted by the people of God? (Early)

Note: The canon is not required for proving the resurrection!

Confirmation Of Authorship And Authority

***25 of 27 NT books are quoted by 110 A.D.
(By the early Church fathers) (All but 2 John & Jude)

***Gospels and Acts are cited during the lives of the Apostles

***Quoted as authoritative and unique

***Collected early in one volume

***Publicly read and expounded upon them

***Commentaries were written about them

***Opponents admitted Gospels were written by disciples

***No other "gospels" were treated this way

OBJECTION: What About The Other "Gospels"

***Gospel of Thomas

***Gospel of Peter

***Gospel of Judas

All of these are obvious forgeries – they were not written by Thomas, Peter and Judas. They were all written in the 2nd Century, long after the Apostles were dead.

The “Gospel” of Thomas

***Forgery written 100 years after the NT Gospels.

***Half of Thomas contains blended sayings from the 4 NT Gospels; the sayings are in Syriac and originated in 175A.D.

***Females are not worthy of life. Must become men to be saved.

The “Gospel” of Peter

***Forgery, found in a 9th century monk’s coffin in Egypt in 1880

***Could be the forgery ancient church historians warned was attributed to Peter

***Anti-Semitic (not written by a 1st Century Jew)

***Author is ignorant of 1st Century practices and rulers

***Has embellished resurrection account with a talking cross and Jesus’ head stretching to the clouds

The Gospel of Judas

***Forgery, cited by Irenaeus (2nd Century Bishop) as fictitious

***Does not teach monotheism

***Says humans are divine

***Judas was a hero

***Salvation is by special knowledge (Gnosticism)

NT COPIED FROM Pagan Resurrection Myths?

***Resurrection myths came after Christianity – NOT BEFORE! (Earliest 2nd Century A.D.)

***NT writers make historical claims – they were not writing mythology

***Theory can’t explain:

>>>Numerous eyewitness details in NT

>>>Embarrassing Details of disciples & Jesus

>>>Martyrdom of disciples

>>>Growth of the Church (especially in Jerusalem)

>>>Why non-Christian writers tell the same story

>>>Jewish, not pagan, founders of Christianity

CONCLUSION: Your New Testament Is The One Jesus Promised