

Who are you  
listening To?



On the morning of September 11, 2001, the nation watched in terror as a hijacked airplane flew into the first tower of the World Trade Center, taking with it hundreds of lives on impact. Throughout the building, people heard the explosion and felt the building sway. In a state of panic, many began to call the operators below inquiring, "What should I do?" Some of the operators on duty told the people to stay put and wait in their offices, while others were telling people to evacuate at once. On that morning, whether you lived or died depended largely on what you were told and who you chose to listen to. Similarly, today. Could it be that you have been listening to the wrong source?

While some claim that people don't come with instructions, the truth is, God has given us an instruction book for life. That book is a collection of ancient writings called the Bible. In the Bible, God has given us instructions on how to live the best way possible and how to enter into a relationship with Him so that we can one day live forever.

Still, many people are skeptical about the Bible. They claim that it was a man-made book and cannot be trusted, but the Bible claims that it

was not really authored by men. It says, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Tim. 3:16). God told them, showed them, and inspired them with the words to write. While men wrote the words, “they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet. 1:21). If a paralyzed man dictated words for someone to write, the person who moved the pencil would not be the author, but the one who spoke the words. The author is the one the thoughts originated from. That’s how the Bible can be written by men and still be authored by God. While many skeptics still raise arguments against the Bible, it continues to stand up against its critics.

Some have even challenged the historical accuracy of the Bible, but over and over again, the Bible has proven to be historically accurate. For example, some have claimed that certain people and places in the Bible never existed, such as King David, the Hittite nation, or the Moabites. Many have questioned the accounts of the flood and the tower of Babel. Others have said that Israel was never captured by Babylon. Doubts about the Bible continued to circulate, but over time, artifacts have consistently been found to prove that the Bible is true.

The discovery of the Moabite stone revealed that the Moabite nation recorded in the Bible was a real nation. The discovery of the Lachish letters in 1935 revealed communications and conflicts between Babylon and Israel just before Israel was taken into captivity. In 1906, Turkey uncovered thousands of Hittite documents, proving that the Hittite nation existed and that the Bible was historically true. As recently as 1993, we had no proof of the existence of King David. Skeptics of the Bible used this as evidence that the Bible was not true, but again the skeptics were silenced when archaeologists found proof of King David's existence at a mound called Tel Dan, north of Israel, where reference to the ancient king was inscribed. While the Rosetta Stone and King Tut's tomb give us evidence of the Biblical accounts of ancient Egypt, the Behistun Rock contains accounts of the flood, creation, and the tower of Babel, as described in the Bible.

The evidence of the Bible's accuracy is overwhelming. There is enough archaeological evidence of the Bible's accuracy to write multiple books, and yet this is not the only evidence we have of the Bible's accuracy. Some have claimed that even if the Bible was true, we

could not trust its accuracy because it has been rewritten and translated repeatedly, altering the text, but the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls destroyed this lie. Between the years 1947 and 1956, approximately 900 different writings and segments were discovered along the coast of the Dead Sea, containing many Bible manuscripts. When these ancient manuscripts were compared with the ones that we already had, they found that they were no errors in the translation significant enough to change the meaning of the actual Bible verses, disproving the claim that the Bible cannot be trusted due to changes in the translation.

More significant is the fact that the Dead Sea Scrolls contain writings from the book of Isaiah that date back to no earlier than 100 B.C. What is so amazing about this is that Isaiah made predictions about the coming Messiah which were not fulfilled until over one hundred years later. In addition, even the most liberal estimation of the book of Daniel puts the writings as late as the second century B.C. This still leaves skeptics with a problem, since the Biblical account of Daniel predicts future events well beyond the fall of the Roman Empire, some six hundred years later.

The fact is, the Bible has been confirmed as a reliable historical document, and evidence continues to pour forth from discoveries that reveal its authenticity. While some may question the Bible's authority, those who are looking for enough evidence to accept the Bible as true have been given more than enough evidence.

Still, some claim that science disproves the Bible, as if science and the Bible were somehow at odds, warring against each other. This is another lie promulgated today, which must be exposed. The truth is that science is just starting to catch up with the Bible. Science used to teach that air was weightless, light was fixed, and the earth was flat, but thousands of years ago, the Bible spoke of the round earth, the movement of light, the weight of the wind, and more. Long before scientists discovered the truth about these things, the Bible spoke of modern scientific discoveries, like the expanding universe, the rain cycle, blood as the source of life, and more. While some scientists thought to prove the Bible was wrong, science actually helped prove the Bible. The fact is, science is constantly changing, but the scientific facts in the Bible have remained accurate all through history, proving that the Bible is the authority in science.

Perhaps the most amazing evidence of the Bible's divine inspiration is its power to change lives. God claims to work through the "word of God, which also effectually works in you who believe" (1 Thes. 2:13). The Bible claims that it has power to change us, give us a new life, and make us holy, and this is evidenced by the countless stories of alcoholics becoming sober, addicts becoming clean, homosexuals becoming straight, and more. The word seems to have a living power within it that changes man into a "new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17). And this power can be yours too, but it is only obtained by faith.

On September 11, as the buildings prepared to fall, one man called the operator for advice. The operator urged him to return to his desk and wait, but he decided not to listen to the operator because he anticipated the seriousness of the situation. As a result, the man lived. The same decision rests before you. You must choose who you are going to listen to. God appeals, "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life" (Deut. 30:19).

Couldn't you use a little hope?

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