

# The Messenger



## MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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### What Was Jesus's View of the Scriptures? Part 3

What Was Jesus's View of the Scriptures? Part 3

When I was a child, we sang a song called "I Just Want to Be A Sheep." Several lines in the song may sound familiar to you. It goes, "I don't want to be a Pharisee because they are so unfair you see. I don't want to be a Sadducee because they are so sad you see. I don't want to be a hypocrite because they are not hip with it." The reason we did not want to be a Pharisee is stated in Matthew 23:15: "Then the Pharisees went and plotted together how they might trap Him in what He said." In order to catch Jesus contradicting himself, they sent their disciples to Him with a question. The word "trap" communicates the idea of a hunter and its prey. The religious leaders were hostile to Jesus and intended to trap him by getting him to say something he would regret.

These religious imposters pose this question to Jesus in verse 16: "Teacher, we know that you are truthful and teach the way of God in truth and defer to no one; for you are

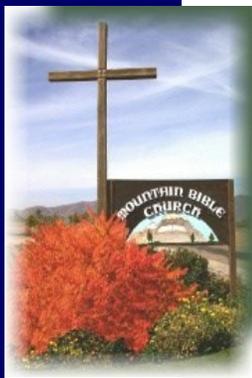
not partial to any." The notes in the NET Bible comment on this tricky question: "Very few comments are as deceitful as this one; they did not really believe this at all. The question of the Pharisees and Herodians was specifically designated to trap Jesus." Jesus calls their actions "malice" and calls them "hypocrites" (v.18). His answer to their question blows their minds and they were amazed (v. 22).

The next line of questioning in this chapter further reveals the wrongful intentions of the religious leaders. This time it's the Sadducees. The law required a brother-in-law of a childless widow to marry her if he were able. The Sadducees concocted a story of seven brothers who all died but all had the same wife. After the death of one of the brothers, she married one of the other brothers until they all died. Then the wife died. The question is: "In the resurrection, whose wife of

the seven brothers will she be (v. 28)?" The Sadducees didn't even believe in the resurrection! They think they have asked Jesus an unanswerable question that will totally discredit his ministry. Stop right here. If you were Jesus, how would you answer that question?

Jesus's scathing response gives further insight into his view of the Scriptures. He told them they were mistaken, and ignorant of the Scriptures and the power of God (v. 29). He tells them their question is silly because in the resurrection people don't marry (which they didn't believe in anyway!). One other thing I should mention is that the Sadducees didn't believe in angels either. So he tells them the reason we won't marry in heaven is because we will be like angels. This answer must have really irritated them.

Jesus uses the Scripture to correct their misunderstanding of it. He says, "But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have



### What Was Jesus's View of the Scriptures? Part 3 (Cont.)

you not read what was spoken to you by God (v. 29)?" Of course they had read this passage and probably quoted it, yet, they did not understand it. The Sadducees held that only passages from the first five books of the Old Testament were authoritative, so Jesus takes a verse from Exodus 3:6, and playing by their own rules, teaches them a correct understanding of God's word. He quotes this passage where God says to Moses: "I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB." You may be thinking, "So what?" at this point. The "so what" is answered in the last part of v. 32, which reads: "God is not the God of the dead but of the living."

Jesus's argument is highly sophisticated, again. This is not a passage usually used at a funeral, but it is very much a funeral message. Jesus's appeal to the Scriptures means that what we read in them are the very words of God. His argument goes something like this: At the burning bush God spoke in the present tense to Moses and said He "is" the God of those who have died. Jesus's basic point is that if God currently is the God of the dead, then the resurrection is a truthful doctrine and those who have died are in some sense alive, and will resurrect to life again. Jesus also mentions the "power of God" in v. 29. The power of God is His transforming power and

ability to resurrect the dead to life. Paul affirms this when he says it is the power of God that will enable Jesus to bring everything under His control and transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body (Phil. 3:21)." This same power Jesus refers to is the power that raised Him from the dead and that will raise believers to their glorified bodies.

Jesus states the Sadducees are mistaken and their deception is twofold: (1) They don't know the Scriptures, and (2) and they don't know the power of God. The word "know" governs the words "scriptures" and "power of God." The power of God that resurrected Jesus from the grave, and eventually every believer, and the written word of God are closely connected. When we engage ourselves with God's word, we are tapping into a power that is able to make dead men live. Paul writes in Romans 8:23, "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body." The resurrection is the believer's hope, and the word of God is the vehicle of this hope.

Pastor Frost

#### Baptism of Jackson Robinson

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19 NIV



"...and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also - not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 3:21



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Cor 5:17 NIV

### How Accurate is the Bible?

This is a recurring question that I hear from many of you during our Bible study time. To answer it I have found an excellent article by the same title by Kenneth Boa, and here are a few excerpts from that article.

“The trustworthiness of Scripture is essential to a well-grounded Christian worldview, since it provides a foundation for authority that transcends the limitations of human reason and experience. Many people are of the opinion that the teachings of the Bible are outdated, contradictory, and full of scientific and historical errors. With few exceptions, they have reached these conclusions through second- and third-hand sources rather than their own study of the Bible. How can you be sure that the Bible is the same now as when it was written?

There are three lines of evidence that support the claim that the biblical documents are reliable: these are the bibliographic test, the internal test, and the external test. The first test examines the biblical manuscripts, the second test deals with the claims made by the biblical authors, and the third test looks to outside confirmation of the biblical content.

#### I. The Bibliographic Test

##### A. The Quantity of Manuscripts

In the case of the Old Testament, there are a small number of Hebrew manuscripts, because the Jewish scribes ceremonially buried imperfect and worn manuscripts. Many ancient manuscripts were also lost or destroyed during Israel's turbulent history. Also, the Old Testament text was standardized by the Masoretic Jews by the sixth century A.D., and all

manuscripts that deviated from the Masoretic Text were evidently eliminated. But the existing Hebrew manuscripts are supplemented by the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Septuagint (a third-century B.C. Greek translation of the Old Testament), the Samaritan Pentateuch, and the Targums (ancient paraphrases of the Old Testament), as well as the Talmud (teachings and commentaries related to the Hebrew Scriptures).

The quantity of New Testament manuscripts is unparalleled in ancient literature. There are over 5,000 Greek manuscripts, about 8,000 Latin manuscripts, and another 1,000 manuscripts in other languages (Syriac, Coptic, etc.). In addition to this extraordinary number, there are tens of thousands of citations of New Testament passages by the early church fathers. In contrast, the typical number of existing manuscript copies for any of the works of the Greek and Latin authors, such as Plato, Aristotle, Caesar, or Tacitus, ranges from 1 to 20.

##### B. The Quality of Manuscripts

Because of the great reverence the Jewish scribes held toward the Scriptures, they exercised extreme care in making new copies of the Hebrew Bible. The entire scribal process was specified in meticulous detail to minimize the possibility of even the slightest error. The number of letters, words, and lines were counted, and the middle letters of the Pentateuch and the Old Testament were determined. If a single mistake was discovered, the entire manuscript would be destroyed. As a result of this extreme care, the quality of the manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible

surpasses all other ancient manuscripts. The 1947 discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls provided a significant check on this, because these Hebrew scrolls antedate the earliest Masoretic Old Testament manuscripts by about 1,000 years. But in spite of this time span, the number of variant readings between the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Masoretic Text is quite small, and most of these are variations in spelling and style.

While the quality of the Old Testament manuscripts is excellent, that of the New Testament is very good--considerably better than the manuscript quality of other ancient documents. Because of the thousands of New Testament manuscripts, there are many variant readings, but these variants are actually used by scholars to reconstruct the original readings by determining which variant best explains the others in any given passage. Some of these variant readings crept into the manuscripts because of visual errors in copying or because of auditory errors when a group of scribes copied manuscripts that were read aloud... and only a fraction of these have any real consequences. Furthermore, no variant readings are significant enough to call into question any of the doctrines of the New Testament. The New Testament can be regarded as 99.5 percent pure.

##### C. The Time Span of Manuscripts

Apart from some fragments, the earliest Masoretic manuscript of the Old Testament is dated at A.D. 895. This is due to the systematic destruction of worn manuscripts by the Masoretic scribes. However, the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls

## How Accurate is the Bible? (Cont.)

dating from 200 B.C. to A.D. 68 drastically reduced the time span from the writing of the Old Testament books to our earliest copies of them.

The time span of the New Testament manuscripts is exceptional. The manuscripts written on papyrus came from the second and third centuries A.D. The time span for most of the New Testament is less than 200 years (and some books are within 100 years) from the date of authorship to the date of our earliest manuscripts. This can be sharply contrasted with the average gap of over 1,000 years between the composition and the earliest copy of the writings of other ancient authors.

### II. The Internal Test

The second test of the reliability of the biblical documents asks, What claims does the Bible make about itself? This may appear to be circular reasoning. It sounds like we are using the testimony of the Bible to prove that the Bible is true. But we are really examining the truth claims of the various authors of the Bible and allowing them to speak for themselves. (Remember that the Bible is not one book but many books woven together.) This provides significant evidence that must not be ignored.

A number of biblical authors claim that their accounts are primary, not secondary. That is, the bulk of the Bible was written by people who were eyewitnesses of the events they recorded. The independent eyewitness accounts in the New Testament of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ were written by people who were intimately acquainted with Jesus Christ. Their gospels and epistles reveal their integrity and complete

commitment to the truth, and they maintained their testimony even through persecution and martyrdom. All the evidence inside and outside the New Testament runs contrary to the claim made by form criticism that the early church distorted the life and teachings of Christ. Most of the New Testament was written between A.D. 47 and 70, and all of it was complete before the end of the first century. The Bible places great stress on accurate historical details, and this is especially obvious in the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, Luke's two-part masterpiece (see his prologue in Luke 1:1-4).

### III. The External Test

Because the Scriptures continually refer to historical events, they are verifiable; their accuracy can be checked by external evidence. The historicity of Jesus Christ is well-established by early Roman, Greek, and Jewish sources, and these extra-biblical writings affirm the major details of the New Testament portrait of the Lord. The first-century Jewish historian Flavius Josephus made specific references to John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, and James in his *Antiquities of the Jews*. In this work, Josephus gives us many background details about the Herods, the Sadducees and Pharisees, the high priests like Annas and Caiaphas, and the Roman emperors mentioned in the gospels and Acts.

Other first- and second-century writers who mention Christ include the Roman historians Cornelius Tacitus (*Annals*) and Suetonius (*Life of Claudius*, *Lives of the Caesars*), the Roman governor Pliny the Younger (*Epistles*), and the Greek satirist

Lucian (*On the Death of Peregrine*). Jesus is also mentioned a number of times in the Jewish Talmud.

The Old and New Testaments make abundant references to nations, kings, battles, cities, mountains, rivers, buildings, treaties, customs, economics, politics, dates, etc. Because the historical narratives of the Bible are so specific, many of its details are open to archaeological investigation. While we cannot say that archaeology proves the authority of the Bible, it is fair to say that archaeological evidence has provided external confirmation of hundreds of biblical statements.”

by Jerry Henry

## Dress a Girl Around The World

Saturday, March 2nd from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. will be our next DAG Sew Day. RSVP with Debbie at the office (661) 822-7541 or e-mail at [info@mountainbiblechurch](mailto:info@mountainbiblechurch). Bring your sewing machine and notions such as scissors, thread, seam ripper, etc. We will have material for you to use or you may purchase your own, but it must be 100% cotton and modest enough to not see through.



# Mountain Bible Church Care Ministry

In John 21 we read that Jesus appears to His disciples at the sea shore after His resurrection to continue His guidance of what He expects of them and Jesus is very clear when He tells them what to do when He is no longer with them in person. He addresses Peter in verse 16 and Jesus entrusts them with a very specific task, "Take care of my sheep."

John 21:16

"...take care of my sheep."

to those of you who already know God's call is to offer your talents to help others.

Whether you are sure or unsure, come out to our May 11th meeting, and find out if God is calling you to participate. Taking this step will assure you that you can continue to serve with your talents being used to the fullest.

We know Jesus considers us to be His flock and lovingly calls us to care for each other in this verse. Mountain Bible Church has always been a loving congregation. We want to further obey this request by offering a training session to equip ourselves to obey Jesus's call and continue to reach those in our church who can use a hand ever so often. Thank you

A sign-up sheet will be placed in the narthex of the church on Sunday, March 3rd, and more information will be provided during church on March 3rd. Awareness training will be taught by our ministry care leaders on May 11th from 10 :00 a.m. to Noon. Brunch will be served.

Ministries we will be providing are: transportation, home communion, meals, visits, benevolence and spiritual guidance / prayers

God is waiting to bless others through you!

## Children's Ministry

Tom & Marlene Capron



The children's ministry had a fun time making valentine cookies and serving them to others. The kids were asked what MBC stood for and why they like MBC. These cards are their answers.



# Lifetouch Directory

We are planning a new church directory. While a new photo is not required, every family will be given a free 8 by 10 complimentary portrait.

Dates and times the photographer will be here are:

- Thursday April 4th 11 - 7
- Friday April 5th 12 - 8
- Saturday April 6th 10 - 5

Sign-up:

- ◆ In the narthex on Sundays
- ◆ On-line via link in Wednesday's weekly announcement e-mail
  - ◆ Call the Office



**PAW**  
**PRINTS**  
 ON YOUR  
**HEART**



Be sure to include ME  
 in our new family photograph!

**Lifetouch.**

THE DIFFER-  
 ENCE BE-  
 TWEEN CATS  
 AND DOGS  
 IS THAT  
 DOGS COME  
 WHEN  
 CALLED AND  
 CATS TAKE  
 A MESSAGE  
 AND GET  
 BACK TO  
 YOU

DOGS HAVE  
 MASTERS  
 CATS HAVE  
 STAFF

# Welcome to our New Members

**A warm welcome to  
 our newest  
 members of  
 Mountain Bible  
 Church:**

- Dave & Kathy Whicker
- Rich & Dolly Johnson
- Jason & Christal Wheeler
- Corey & Melissa Costelloe

We are glad to have you as  
 part of our family.



Our Birthday Page is currently under construction while we prepare a new church directory.

I wish each of you a wonderful happy birthday.

P.S. Please be sure to include birthdays when you update your church directory information if you would like to be listed here in the Messenger.



**“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”  
Romans 12:12 NIV**

## **For Help and Answers**

**Call the church office .....822-7541  
Prayer Request Call Carol Shy ..... 822-5479 or  
email the office at [info@mountainbiblechurch.org](mailto:info@mountainbiblechurch.org)**

Call the office @ 822-7541 for the following:  
Name or address change  
Hospital Visits  
Counseling information  
Child Dedication Service  
Membership/Baptism



*The Messenger of Mountain Bible Church*

*Sunday Morning Services at Mountain Bible Church: 10:00 a.m.*

*Children's Programs are available at the same times.*

*Infant care (0-2 years) is available in the nursery*

*Senior Pastor:* Chris Frost

*Codirector of Children's Ministry:* Sara Frost

*Codirector of Children's Ministry:* Susan Bunch

*Accountant:* Lori Williams

*Office Manager and Editor:* Debbie Schmidt

*Contributing Writers:* Pastor Chris Frost, Jerry Henry

*Distribution:* Neya Kuithe

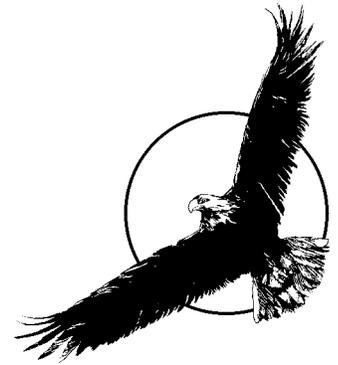
*Trustees for 2019:* Chris Boston, Bruce Crespo, Ed Weston, and Bob Garcia.

*Elders for 2019:* Dennis Collins, Dr. Sam Conklin, Ed Dunlap, Jerry Henry, Dave Lawrence, and Tom Lichtenwaldt.

*The Messenger* is published monthly. All submissions to *The Messenger* are due the twentieth (20th) of each month. We would like contributions of news articles, photos and other information from the Youth Group, Men's and Women's Bible Studies, Missions Team, and Praise Team. Please remember to put your name on the article so we can give proper credit.

*The Messenger* is published by:

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