Is the Bible really the Word of God?

Unsurprisingly this question comes up regularly among students. How can we know that the Bible really is God speaking to us and not just a bunch of stories written by men to justify their beliefs and ideals?

Our answer to this question will determine the importance of the Bible to our lives, and ultimately have eternal significance for us. If the Bible is truly God’s Word, then we should cherish it, study it, obey it, and fully trust it. To dismiss it is to dismiss God Himself.

So how can we know that the Bible is the Word of God and not just a good book? What sets it apart from other religious books? What evidence do we have?

The Bible claims to be the very Word of God, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Let’s consider three internal and external evidences that testify of the Bible’s divine origin. First, the Bible is a unified book. Even though it is really 66 books, written on three continents, in three different languages, over a period of approximately 1500 years, by more than 40 authors who came from many walks of life, the Bible remains one unified book from beginning to end without contradiction. This unity is unique from all other religious books and is evidence of the divine origin of the words which God moved men to record.

The second internal evidence is the prophecies contained within its pages. There are hundreds of detailed prophecies relating to the future of individual nations, cities, and mankind. Other prophecies concern the coming of the One who would be the Messiah. Unlike the prophecies found in other religious books or those by men such as Nostradamus, biblical prophecies are extremely detailed. The over 300 prophecies concerning Jesus Christ in the Old Testament foretell where He would be born and His lineage, how He would die and that He would rise again. There is no logical way to explain the fulfilled prophecies in the Bible other than by divine origin. There is no other religious book with the extent or type of predictive prophecy that the Bible contains.

The third internal evidence is its unique authority and power. While this evidence is more subjective than the first two, it is no less a powerful testimony. The Bible’s authority is unlike any other book ever written. This authority and power are best seen in the way countless lives have been transformed by the supernatural power of God’s Word. Drug addicts have been cured by it, derelicts and deadbeats transformed by it, hardened criminals reformed by it, sinners rebuked by it, and hate turned to love by it. The Bible possesses a dynamic and transforming power that is only possible because it is truly God’s Word.

External evidence includes the historical nature of the Bible. Because the Bible details historical events its truthfulness and accuracy are subject to verification like any other historical document. Through both archaeological evidences and other writings, the historical accounts of the Bible have been proven time and time again to be accurate and true. The archaeological and manuscript evidence supporting the Bible makes it the best-documented book from the ancient world. The fact that the Bible accurately and truthfully records historically verifiable events is a great indication of its truthfulness when dealing with religious subjects, doctrines and morals.

The second external evidence is the integrity of its human authors. God used men from many walks of life to record His words. In studying the lives of these men, we find them to be honest and sincere. The fact that they were willing to die often excruciating deaths for what they believed testifies that these ordinary yet honest men truly believed God had spoken to them. The men who wrote the New Testament and many hundreds of other believers knew the truth of their message because they had seen and spent time with Jesus Christ after He had risen from the dead. This had a tremendous impact on them, transforming them from hiding in fear to being willing to die for the message God had revealed to them.

The third external evidence is the indestructibility of the Bible. Because of its importance and its claim to be the Word of God, the Bible has suffered more attacks and attempts to destroy it than any other book in history. From early Roman Emperors, through communist dictators and onto modern-day atheists and agnostics, the Bible has withstood and outlasted all of its attackers and is still today the most widely published book in the world.

Throughout time, skeptics have regarded the Bible as mythological, but archeology has confirmed it as historical. Opponents have attacked its teaching as primitive and outdated, but its moral and legal concepts and teachings have had a positive influence on societies and cultures throughout the world. It continues to be attacked by pseudo-science, psychology, and political movements, yet it remains just as true and relevant today as it was when it was first written. It is a book that has transformed countless lives and cultures throughout the last 2000 years. No matter how its opponents try to attack, destroy, or discredit it, the Bible remains and its impact on lives is unmistakable. The accuracy which has been preserved despite every attempt to corrupt, attack, or destroy it is clear testimony to the fact that the Bible is truly God’s Word and is supernaturally protected by Him. It should not surprise us that, no matter how the Bible is attacked, it always comes out unchanged and unscathed. After all, Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away” (Mark 13:31). After looking at the evidence, I can say without a doubt that, yes, the Bible is God’s word. The challenge that we all have is what to do with it.

With all the blessings of Christ,
The Reverend Tony Card

If the Bible is truly God’s Word, then we should cherish it......