

# SHOULD I BELIEVE THE BIBLE?

## 2 Timothy 3: 10-17

### INTRODUCTION:

#### A. *Inspiration*

1. The Declaration - 2 Timothy 3: 16,17
  - a) ***Theo pnuestos* (God-breathed)**
  - b) **To perfectly furnish.**
2. The Method - Ephesians 3: 1-5
  - a) **Revealed by God. - 2 Peter 1: 20,21**
  - b) **Written down for us to understand (Ephesians 3: 1-5)**

#### B. *Proof of Divine Authorship*

1. Unity of Thought
  - a) **66 books, 1600 years, 40 writers**
  - b) **Some wrote in the depth of despair, others in the height of joy.**
  - c) **Some were slaves, others were kings.**
  - d) **Still there is an amazing unity of thought throughout, so as to point to the fact that there is a single AUTHOR.**
2. Timeless Message
  - a) **Some believe the Bible to be outdated ... is it?**
  - b) **David O. Mears - "There is not a sin in all the centuries it does not condemn, not a crime it does not anticipate; not a virtue it omits to mention. Not a new vice or a new virtue has arisen since its last pen was laid down. The forms of evil and of good may have slightly varied with centuries, but the substance of it has been written."**

## II. TRANSMISSION OF THE TEXT

### A. *The Promise of God*

1. His word will not pass away. - 1 Peter 1: 22-25 (Matthew 5:18)
2. Logic DEMANDS it.

### B. *The Indestructible Word*

1. Diocletian's Edict
  - a) **To destroy Christians and ALL BIBLES.**
  - b) **Coin's inscription: "The Christian religion is destroyed and the worship of the gods is restored."**
  - c) **Within 25 years Emperor Constantine of Rome claimed to be a friend of Christianity, issued the Edict of Tolerance, and financed the compilation, and publication of 50 NEW BIBLES.**
2. Voltaire's Boast
  - a) **"50 years from now the world will hear no more of the Bible."**
  - b) **That same year HIS book sold for about 8 cents, and Britain purchased a manuscript of the Bible for \$500,000.**
  - c) **50 years after his death the Geneva Bible Society purchased and used HIS house and printing presses to print BIBLES.**
3. Thomas Paine
  - a) **"When I get through there won't be 5 Bibles left in America."**
  - b) **Many families have more than 5 copies of the Bible themselves! How many people have even one of the works of Thomas Paine?**
4. The Huguenot's Tribute
  - a) **Picture of 2 anvils labeled "Bible" and "Christianity", underneath the inscription, "The more they pound the more they shout, the more they wear their hammers out."**

5. The Testimony of Napoleon Bonaparte

**a) "The Bible is no mere book, but a living creature with a power that conquers all that oppose it!"**

*C. The testimony of scholars*

1. Probable Reliability of the text - 99.95% (Note: in the rendering of "probability" a perfect 100% is NEVER allowable.)

2. Manuscript Evidence - Iliad versus New Testament (See Chart)

### III. FULL OF MISTAKES AND CONTRADICTIONS

*A. "Mistakes" (Contradictions with History, Science)*

1. Scientific "mistakes"

**a) Science believed at one time the earth rested on the back of elephants, turtles, and a god name "Atlas".**

**b) The Bible declared - Job 26:7**

**c) Science held for centuries that the earth was FLAT.**

**d) The Bible declared - Isaiah 40:22**

2. Historic "mistakes"

**a) The Hittites**

**b) For years thought to be a Bible "myth", later discovered to be an enormous empire in the Mediterranean region.**

*B. Contradictions*

1. A result of misunderstanding.

2. Most often, a different viewpoint, or object in view.

**a) Example - Acts 9:7 and Acts 22:9**

## IV. INTERPRETATIONS

A. *Interpretability - "like a violin" - One instrument but many different sounds produced ... but leave your fingers off the neck and what then?*

B. *Presumption - Deuteronomy 4:2 and Deuteronomy 18:20 - The source of differences (what the Bible doesn't say)*

C. *2. Examples - Infant baptism, instrumental music.*

## CONCLUSION:

1. The Bible is the word of God, and is therefore the world's most important volume.
2. The greatest message this book records is this, John 3: 16.
3. What must I do to inherit eternal life?
  - a) **Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Baptism.**
  - b) **Live Faithfully Until Death**