Is the Bible as God’s Word Trustworthy: Coherency of Scriptures?

Zanesville, OH | January 27, 2019 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** 1 Thess. 2:13

**Intro**:

* The bible is the most widely circulated book of all time and it isn’t even close! As of today, the number of bibles that have been distributed worldwide reach into the billions and some have said maybe even into the tens of billions. The bible is also the most translated book of all time and again it’s not even close. Most best-sellers and major books are never translated and those that are, are usually translated into one or two major foreign languages. Since it’s conception, the bible has been translated into more that 2,800 languages. It is true that there are close to 7,000 languages in the world, but the 2,800 figure represents the languages 80% of the world utilize. Why the need for this much circulation? Why go through the process of translating one book so many times? Why is there such a constant demand for this book?

**The Internal Evidence**

1. **The Bible Reads as One Book**
	1. If someone were to pick up the bible and simply read through it from start to finish, Genesis to Revelation, one of the first things anyone would take away from the reading is that the bible reads as one book.
	2. That may not surprise any of us. But understand that the bible is composed of 66 *“books”* or *“writings”* from which we get the world *“Bible”* meaning books or a collection of books.
	3. This is most significant because of a few things:
		1. **The bible was written in three main original languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.**
		2. **The bible contains a variety of different literary genres including: Narrative, poetry, wisdom, apocalyptic, legal, prophetic etc.**
		3. **The bible was composed by approximately 40 men (all different backgrounds) over a period of 1,500 years on three different continents.**
	4. Despite these significant findings, which would probably make any book lose all logic, structure and consistency, the bible reads as one overarching narrative from beginning to end.
	5. A great example of this would be the tree of life illustration. The tree of life is mentioned in Genesis chapters 2, 3 and we don’t see it again until the end of the bible in the book of Revelation (22). This bridges the entire bible from beginning to end!
	6. One who reads the account in Genesis and proceeds to read through the rest of the bible will most like forget that they read of the *“tree of life”* in the beginning. But in reading Rev. 22, that person will recall what was read in Gen. 2 & 3 and it forces them to go back to the garden and contemplate what took place there and what’s taking place in Revelation. That person will realize these two passages emphasize the **Theme of the Bible.**
2. **Consistency in the Theme of the Bible**
	1. What is that theme? Remember the bible contains a variety of different literary genres. However, they all combine to form a greater narrative that emphasizes **God’s fellowship with mankind.**
	2. This theme is not only prevalent in Genesis and Revelation but throughout the entire biblical account. From Genesis to Revelation (everything in between) the scriptures emphasize God’s desire to have a relationship with mankind (See Gen. 3:8; 5:22-24; 6:9; 17:1; Lev. 20:22-26; Hos. 2:18-20; Matt. 1:21, 23; Eph. 2:10; 1 Jn. 1:5-7).
	3. The bible is completely consistent with this theme and it uses a variety of literary genres to bring this message across in more than one way. An excellent illustration of this is the marriage relationship described in Eph. 5:22-33 and how it directly relates to our relationship with God.