

# Is It In You? (Confidence = Electrolyte #3)

## I. Just How Sure Is The Bible?

### (1) *The ultimate experience with God (Mat 16:27-17:9)*

The often misunderstood statement before this event...

**B. Mat 16:27-28** - <sup>27</sup>For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. <sup>28</sup>Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Peter, James, & John's "backstage pass" (resurrecting a girl, agony in the garden, this event)

**B. Mat 17:1** - <sup>1</sup>And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

The ultimate visual experience (eyewitnesses)

**B. Mat 17:2-4** - <sup>2</sup>And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. <sup>3</sup>And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

The ultimate auditory experience (ear-witnesses)

**B. Mat 17:5-6** - <sup>5</sup>While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. <sup>6</sup>And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

Jesus' charge to the three (keep it quiet until after it's finished)

**B. Mat 17:7-9** - <sup>7</sup>And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. <sup>8</sup>And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. <sup>9</sup>And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

### (2) *God's take on this event (2Pet 1:16-21)*

The ultimate visual experience (eyewitnesses)

**B. 2Pet 1:16** - <sup>16</sup>For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

The ultimate auditory experience (ear-witnesses)

**B. 2Pet 1:17-18** - <sup>17</sup>For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. <sup>18</sup>And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

The "more sure word of prophecy" (than experience) – "We have" (right now)

**B. 2Pet 1:19** - <sup>19</sup>We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Chg "What does it mean to you? What do you think?" → "What does the Bible really say?"

B. 2Pet 1:20-21 - <sup>20</sup>Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

## II. Why Be So Confident in the Bible?

### (1) **Manuscripts** give us confidence

S. Acts 17:11 – These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

- The Bible is very clear on the need to study, to consider multiple witnesses.

#### The NT

- F.F. Bruce – “There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the New Testament.”
  - Caesar – 50 BC (earliest is 900 AD, ~1000 yrs later) & only 10 copies
  - Plato – 400 BC (earliest is 900 AD, ~1200 yrs later) & only 7 copies
  - Homer *Illiad* – 900 BC (earliest is 400 BC, ~500 yrs later) & only 643 cp’s
- Earliest is pt. of **John 18** – dated 100-150 AD, ~50 yrs later, found along Nile in Egypt (far from Eph!)
- Number is ~5,400 manuscripts, around 24,000 when you add translations in other languages!

### (2) **Jesus** gives us confidence

S. John 17:17 – Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

#### IT was in Jesus...a confidence in God’s word...

- Jesus had confidence in Adam/Eve & creation. (**Mk 10:6** – “But from the beginning of the creation”)
- Jesus had confidence in Noah & flood. (**Mat 24:38** – “For as in the days...before the flood”)
- Jesus had confidence in Moses & burning bush. (**Mk 12:26** – “have ye not read in the book of Moses”)
- Jesus had confidence in Jonah & whale. (**Mat 12:40** – “For as Jonas was 3 days & 3 nights”)
- Jesus had confidence in Solomon & queen of Sheba. (**Mat 12:42** – “The queen of the south shall rise”)
- Jesus had confidence that Isaiah wrote Isaiah. (**Mk 7:6** quotes **Isa 29:13**; and **Lk 4:18** quotes **Isa 42:6**)

### (3) **Science** gives us confidence

S. Psa 33:1 – By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

- Since God used his Word to create world, the Word will be scientifically accurate.
- Given enough time and “discoveries,” science will eventually catch up to the Bible.

#### Cosmology → Geology → Hydrology → Physics

- **Ecc1 1** – Bible talks about (\*) jet stream, (\*) water, fact of the hydrological cycle.
- **Job 25** – Bible talks about (\*) moon, fact has no light of its own.
- **Job 26** – Bible talks about (\*) earth, fact it is suspended in space, not on turtle/Atlas.

- **Job 38** – Bible talks about (\*) earth, fact that it rotates, (\*) light, fact that its actually a wave (\*) fact that it can be divided, (\*) winds, fact they are powered by sunlight, (\*) lightning, fact that path is prepared before it strikes.
- While the Word never contradicts scientific truth, it also never gets trapped into describing some precise scientific theory which becomes outdated in a few years, decades, or centuries.

#### (4) **Archaeology gives us confidence**

**S. Mk 13:2** – And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Over and over, people accused the Bible of being historically inaccurate, while archaeology affirmed it.

- **No writing in Israel before 1000 BC?** – 1929 Ras Shamra Tablets, 30 letters, 14k BC
- **Abe's story unhistorical** – 1922-1934 excavated Ur in Iraq → large in 2k BC
- **Israel could have has laws early** – 1901, Babylonian *Code of Hammurabi*,
- **Solomon not so wealthy** – 1925-1934, excavated a *chariot city* of Solomon, 400+ stables/barracks
- **Hittites didn't exist (40\*)** – 1905=10k tablet library discovered, 1915=it was the Hittites!

#### (5) **Prophecy gives us confidence**

**S. Mk 14:49** – I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled.

- God's test of fulfilled prophecy is clearly set forth in **Dt 18** (perfection).
- Thru the Bible, 600 topics of prediction.
- According to one estimate, **27%** of the Bible makes predictions.
- In the OT, **70%** were already fulfilled and **30%** will be fulfilled with Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> C!

Many are huge events with astounding accuracy:

- **Fall of the Northern Kingdom to Assyria** – 722 BC
- **Deportation of Jews under Nebuchadnezzar** – 586 BC
- **Rise of Josiah to wipe out the descendants of Jereboam** – Fulfilled 300 years later!
- **Isa 53** – so accurately describes the suffering of Jesus (rejection, wounds, whipping, quiet, death with others)
- **Ps 22** – crucifixion, statements he'd make, thoughts he'd have

#### (6) **Experience gives us confidence**

**S. Ps 119:93** - I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.

We believe the Bible because it has given us the **personal experience** it claims it will give us.

In **2Cor 5**, the Bible said I would become a “**new creature.**”

In **1Jo 1**, the Bible said I could receive “**forgiveness.**”

In **Php 4**, the Bible said offers me a “**peace that passeth all underst.**”

In **1Pe 1**, the Bible said I could experience “**joy unspeakable.**”

In **Mal 3**, God challenges me to enter “**true giving.**”