

NAME:

Field of Dreams

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Training



First steps in a life of ever increasing faith

Participant Workbook

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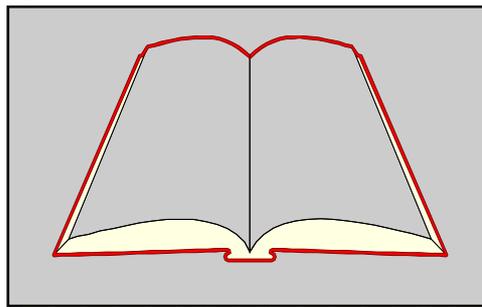
Welcome

Welcome to the beginning of your new life. Today approximately one third of the earth population claims to be Christian with tens of thousands receiving Christ everyday. I believe that if you pursue God with your whole heart, your Christian experience will be dynamic, stimulating, challenging and an adventure. To be honest, real Christianity is not a western religion that we fit in between all of our other commitments but an encounter and journey with the God of the universe. God invites you to know Him and for the knowledge of Him to invade every part of your life.

The Bible

So where do we start? It is first vital to establish that the Bible is God's inspired word, it is not just another religious book.

The Bible was written over a 1600-year period, with over 40 different authors, in three different languages in a variety of places and cultures, during both times of peace and war, yet amazingly, when analyzed, has incredible unity and harmony. It addresses hundreds of controversial subjects, answers the 'big questions' and remains a timeless and up to date book that is as relevant today as it was two thousand years ago.



'All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.'

2Tim. 3:16

The Bible itself claims to be God inspired (2 Timothy 3:16) promising unimaginable blessing and reward to those who adhere to its teachings while warning about the dire consequences of neglecting or rejecting its claim.

Use underlining
Or highlighting

To increase what you retain

If the Bible were 'God's Word' then surely it would bear God's 'fingerprint' by standing out from all other books ever written or published.

Consider the following facts:

The Bible has been read by more people and published in more languages than any other book in history. At the turn of the century (1997) a United Bible Societies report showed that 71 million Bibles and books of the Bible were distributed around the world.

By 2002, the Bible had been translated into 392 languages while the New Testament was translated into 1012 languages... and counting.

The Bible makes many scientific statements thousands of years before modern science could 'validate' them having had the benefits of microscopes, telescopes, satellites and modern technology. While modern scientific theories are continually reviewed and quite often changed (with old theories made obsolete) the Bible has never had to be changed because God knows all things.

Moses wrote about the practice of hygiene and quarantine three thousand years before Louis Pasteur 'discovered', with the aid of microscopes, the invisible world of microbiology (Leviticus 13:4 and 15:13).

Continued overleaf...

Consider the facts (continued)...

☐ Moses, Isaiah and King David made statements relevant to the first two laws of thermodynamics which were only discovered by science in the nineteenth century. That matter cannot be created or destroyed and that everything is winding down and wearing out (Genesis 2:1, Isaiah 51:6, Psalm 102:25,26).



'It is He who sits above the circle of the earth...'

Isaiah 40:22

☐ Approximately two thousand years before Christopher Columbus, when most people thought that the world was flat, Isaiah stated that the world was indeed round...how did he know this?

☐ In the early 1800's it was established that the five fundamentals of science are time, force, action, space and matter. This was covered in the very first verse of Genesis. God was way ahead of us on that one.

'In the beginning (time) God (force) created (action) the heavens (space) and the earth (matter).'

Genesis 1:1

'My doubts scattered to the winds and my reason became convinced by the arguments in support of the inspired and infallible authority of the Old and New Testaments.'

Abraham Lincoln

The Bible makes many other statements that were recorded thousands of years ago relevant to the fields of astronomy, physics, medicine and biology that have only been rediscovered and confirmed in the last couple of hundred years. Only God could have known this.

Examples

1 The books of Job, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah and Jeremiah all describe details about the complexity of the weather system far beyond their time. The complete hydrological cycle governing evaporation, cloud formation, thunder, lightning and rain is explained.

'For He draws up drops of water, which distil as rain from the mist, Which the clouds drop down and pour abundantly on man. Indeed, can anyone understand the spreading of clouds, the thunders from His canopy?'

Job 36:27-29

Also see Eccl. 1:7; 11:3; Job 37:16

Understand that this is recorded in the oldest book in the Bible (Job)!

2 In another passage Job referred to deep springs of water at the bottom of the ocean.

'Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have walked in search of the depths?'

Job 38:16

It is only in the last thirty years that underwater exploration has revealed a remarkable phenomenon of numerous huge springs of fresh water pouring out of the ocean floor!

3 Job also refers to deep oceans whose surface waters are frozen hard like stone. This is a level of knowledge that would be impossible for a Middle-Eastern writer living in ancient times.

'The waters harden like a stone, and the surface of the deep is frozen.'

Job 38:30

As incredibly beneficial modern science has been with its explanations as to how things work it can never explain the big questions of why we are here and what our purpose is. The Bible has plenty to say about this.

Prophecy

One of the strongest objective evidences of biblical inspiration is the phenomenon of "fulfilled prophecy" (prophecy being the declaration of future events by divine inspiration). The Bible is essentially unique among the religious books of mankind in this respect. Some of them contain a few vague forecasts but nothing comparable to the vast number of specific prophecies found in the Bible. Only God knows the future. He declares,

'...the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done.'

Isaiah 46:9,10

Scholars suggest there are about 1,000 prophecies altogether in the Bible – some 800 in the Old Testament and about 200 in the New Testament.

The Old Testament, written over a 1,000-year period, contains more than 300 references to the coming Messiah. All of these were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and they established a solid confirmation of His credentials as the Messiah, the Anointed One.



A sample of prophecies fulfilled in the Life of Jesus...

1

His birth in Bethlehem from the tribe of Judah

'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.'

Micah 5:2 (Fulfilled Matthew 2:1)

Probability 1 in 2,400

2

His hands and feet would be pierced

'For dogs have surrounded Me; the assembly of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet.'

Psalms 22:16 (Fulfilled Luke 23:33)

Probability 1 in 100

3

None of His bones would be broken

'He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.'

Psalms 34:20 (Fulfilled John 19:33)

Probability 1 in 20

4

People would gamble for His garments

'They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.'

Psalms 22:18 (Fulfilled John 19:23-24)

Probability 1 in 100

5

His betrayal money would be thrown in the Temple and then given to buy a potter's field

'And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter; that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.'

Zechariah 11:13 (Fulfilled Matthew 27:5-7)

Probability 1 in 200

6

His burial in a rich man's tomb

'And they made His grave with the wicked; but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.'

Isaiah 53:9 (Fulfilled Matthew 27:57-60)

Probability 1 in 100

7

He would not decay but be resurrected

'For you will not leave my soul in Sheol (hell), Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.'

Psalms 16:10 (Fulfilled Acts 2:31)

Probability 1 in 10,000

Probability of these seven prophecies alone (there are around 300) being fulfilled in the life of Christ is 1 in 9.6×10^{16}
That's 1 chance in 96,000,000,000,000,000!

Prophecy Fulfilled Today

If the Bible was supernaturally accurate in prophecies that were fulfilled 2,000 years ago then why wouldn't it continue its accuracy in relation to the prophecies in our day.

In fact the Bible's prophecies are still being fulfilled in our day:

- The rebirth of Israel (Isaiah 66:8).
- The present Arab-Israeli conflict (Psalm. 83:2-8).
- The restoration of the Hebrew language (Zephaniah 3:9)
- The fertility of Israel (Isaiah 27:6).
- Plans to rebuild the Temple (Isaiah 2:2)
- The rise of earthquakes (Matt. 24:7)
- Worldwide television (Rev. 11:9, 10)
- The Mark of the Beast (Rev. 13:16-18)
- The Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16)
- The return of Christ (Acts 1:11).

Equidistant Letter Sequences

One final amazing area that displays God's supernatural hand in the writing of the Bible is seen in what are called equidistant letter sequences (ELS). These are messages encoded within the text at various letter spacing apart. For example, every fifth letter may spell out a different word or every 25th letter. It is only with today's sophisticated computer technology that the true extent of many amazing messages encoded in the original text is now being discovered.

To understand this aspect of the Hebrew Scriptures we need to appreciate that the original text was not written with punctuation marks.

THEBIBLEWASWRITTENINHEBREWWITHOUTPUNCTATIONMARKS

We understand this sentence, by breaking it into appropriate spaces

THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN IN HEBREW WITHOUT PUNCTUATION MARKS

Jesus said,

'For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.'

Matthew 5:18

A jot and tittle are the smallest elements in the Hebrew language.

There are many examples but because this is just an introduction to show you the reliability of the Bible we are going to consider only one:

'Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; He has put Him to grief: When you make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.'

Isaiah 53:10

In this passage, which was written 700 years before Christ, a Hebrew scholar *Yacov Ramse* recently found encoded an incredible message. Beginning with the second Hebrew letter 'yod' Yacov counted forward every 20th letter and found the phrase '*Yeshua Shmi*' which in Hebrew means:

'Jesus is My Name' !!!

You can truly trust the Bible as the very bedrock of human life. It not only contains prophecies past and present, it is the Manufacturer's Handbook to guide you through the rest of your life.

Questions

1. Name two examples of God's 'fingerprints' displayed in the Bible.

2. Which Bible writer referred to deep springs of water at the bottom of the ocean.

3. When you bought your last electronic device did you read the Manufacturer's Instructions before you started using the item?

4. Which do you find more amazing, prophecy or equidistant letter sequences within the Bible? Why?

5. What does Hebrews 4:12 say about the nature of God's word?

7. What takes place in us when we first hear and receive His word? (Psalm 119:130 & 105)

8. What is the result of us regularly thinking upon and meditating upon His word? (Psalm 119:99,100)
