



## PART 3: CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE?

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### Sermon Notes

**Text: Isaiah 55:8-11**

#### Recap

The Bible is the most important and influential book in all of human history.

God spoke and acted in history, and humans (with the help of the holy spirit) recorded what they heard and saw.

Today: Can I trust the Bible?

#### How did the word of God get from God's mouth into my life?

#### 4-step process:

God – Revelation/Inspiration – Transmission – Translation – Interpretation – Your Life

#### Today: Focus on transmission

Synod of Carthage finally confirmed and "canonized" the NT in 397AD

#### Manuscript Evidence:

- 5000 Greek manuscripts
- Short gap between original and earliest copies

“The interval then between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible,

and the last foundation for any doubt that the scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established” ~Sir Frederic Kenyon

Textual Criticism: Comparing the vast amount of manuscript copies to determine the exact words of the original document.

1947 - Dead Sea Scrolls discovered, revealing excellent preservation of the Old Testament text over a 1000 year period.

The Bible isn't just a book; it's a miracle - preserved by a God who wanted us to read it.

#### Fulfilled Prophecy in History

Daniel 2:31-41 - Daniel interprets King Nebuchadnezzar's dreams

- Predicts the rise and fall of four kingdoms in the Ancient Near East.

#### Scripture bears evidence with itself of its divine origins

The Bible is exactly the kind of book that God would write if he write a book.

#### Conclusion:

Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. What did you find most interesting, challenging or intriguing about Sunday's message? Did you learn anything new about the Bible? Or come to appreciate it in a new way? How so?

### Study & Discussion:

1. Do you now have a better understanding of the trustworthiness of the Bible? Are there other defences you're aware of? How do you explain the Bible's trustworthiness to people who criticize it?
2. Consider the 4-step process of God's word coming into our lives: Revelation/Inspiration – Transmission – Translation – Interpretation. What questions remain in your mind about these steps?
  - What Bible translation do you like best? Why?
  - What resources do you use to try to get the most accurate interpretation?
  - Consider the three part test of interpretation: Does the Bible say it? Does the Holy Spirit confirm it? Does the Christian community affirm it? Are these valid tests? How do you go about consulting these witnesses?
3. Read Isaiah 55:8-11. The context of this passage is God inviting Israel to repent (change their thoughts to align with his). God's word will come down from heaven like rain to accomplish its work and then return to heaven. Many have connected this metaphor to the coming of Jesus. What do you think? What other metaphors does scripture use for God's word?

### Application:

1. How will your trust in the scriptures translate into greater obedience this week?

### Prayer:

1. Pray for the discipline to increase your Bible engagement.
2. Other Requests
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