

WHY >

MESSAGE Three: *Why Should I Trust the Bible?* Pastor Mike Chapman

Is the Bible true? Is it the word of God? Do its words have any claim on my life? Today, we will dig into these kinds of questions. If you begin with the assumption that it is possible that the Bible might be the word of God and go where the evidence takes you, there is compelling evidence for its credibility. Former skeptics, C. S. Lewis, Malcolm Muggeridge, Lee Strobel, and Josh McDowell, followed the evidence where it took them, and became champions in the cause of Christ.

DOES THE BIBLE CLAIM TO BE THE WORD OF GOD?

It claims to be the inspired words of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. (NLT)

Inspired – **“God breathed”**

2 Peter 1:20-21, You must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God. (NLT)

CAN ITS CLAIMS BE DEFENDED?

The witness of **Ancient Manuscripts**

We have more and older manuscripts of the Biblical text than for any other 30 pieces of ancient documents *combined*.

New Testament scholar Bruce Metzger said, "In contrast with these figures [of other ancient manuscripts], the textual critic of the New Testament is embarrassed by the wealth of this material."

The witness of **Archaeology**

Renown archaeologist, Nelson Glueck wrote, "It can be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference."

The witness of **Fulfilled Prophecy**

The Bible is the only book in the world that has specific prophecies made hundreds of years earlier that have been specifically fulfilled.

WHAT IS THE CORE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE?

Creation

Answers the question: *Where did we come from?*

Fall

Answers the question: *How did things get so messed up?*

Redemption

Answers the question: *Is there hope for man?*

Restoration

Answers the question: *Where is history going?*