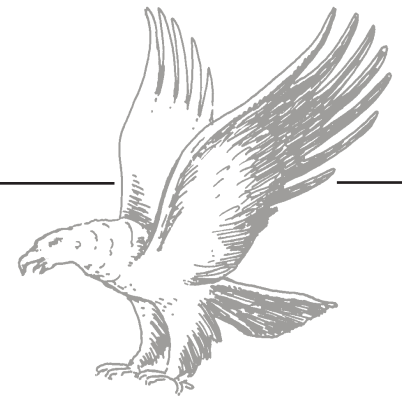


Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



May 8, 2016

Why I Trust the Bible

In an age when the Bible has been cast off as a relic from ancient times, it takes a lot of courage to insist that it can still be trusted. There are some very good reasons for doing just that.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).



There was a time not long ago when our society had a deep respect for the Bible. Today that respect is almost gone. It has become fashionable to trash the Good Book as a relic from a bygone era that has reached its expiration date and can be safely tossed aside.

I am among the few who still hold to the Bible as a reliable source of guidance for life. There are three reasons why I still trust it.

The first reason is its *thematic unity*. Most holy texts arose from the experiences of single individuals (for example, the Koran from Muhammad, or the Book of Mormon from Joseph Smith). So it's not surprising to hear the followers of those books boast of how uniform those “revelations” are. In contrast, the Bible is a compilation of the writings of

dozens of men scattered over a thousand years. Opportunities for collaboration were limited, and no single person or group had control over the events that transpired. Yet despite that patchwork of authorship, the finished product reveals a remarkable consistency of thought and purpose. The scope of history recorded in the pages of the Bible tell the story of humanity in a way no other source does. The amazing harmony of this Book is, by itself, remarkable evidence for its supernatural origin.

The second reason I trust the Bible is the profound *psychological insights* it gives into human nature. The biographies of the ancients (warts and all), the pleas of the prophets, the ethical reflections of the Wisdom Literature, the teachings of Jesus, the practical theology of Paul—these diverse units of literature expose the dark workings of the human heart better than any therapist could do. Reading the Bible can help us better understand our motives, our behaviors, and the path by which we can live more wisely. The Bible teaches us the power of attitudes like love, forgive-

ness, and hope to change our lives—and change the world.

Finally, I trust the Bible because of its *explanatory power*. More than any other holy text or philosophical system, the Bible does the best job of explaining why the world is the way it is. It helps us understand the forces that lie behind the rise and fall of world empires, as well as the rise and fall of individual lives. Through the Bible we understand how Christianity got started and grew, despite the severe disadvantages it faced in its early days. The world and everything in it just makes more sense when studied through the interpretive framework of the Judeo-Christian Scriptures.

Critics like to harp on details, especially in the Old Testament, that to a modern culture make the Bible look obsolete, even dangerous. Those details have reasonable explanations, if we treat the evidence fairly. But even if we struggle to understand those anomalies, the larger message remains intact: the Bible gives us a deeper appreciation for God, His creation, and our own role in the larger scheme of things. We can trust it!

– David King