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**WHY SHOULD WE
BELIEVE THE BIBLE TO
BE TRUE AND GOD'S
WORD?**

Part 4

**THE UNITY OF THE
BIBLE**

Instructions:

- Read the entire lesson – all Bible verses are included and are from the New King James Version
- Answer the questions at the end of the lesson
- Mail the answers to the address provided
- The questions will be marked and returned to you along with the next lesson and a self-addressed envelope
- A Certificate of Completion will be mailed when the entire series is completed

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The entire Bible is united in its message. Previously we studied that the Bible was written over a period of 1500 years and by 40 men, but still there is continuity and agreement from the Genesis to Revelation. The harmony (to be in agreement) of the Bible is because its writers were directed by our Heavenly Father and led by His Holy Spirit. Before the lesson, let's look at some interesting information about such diverse things as tides in the oceans, cows and river otters.

Tides

Tides are one of the most reliable phenomena (significant facts or marvels) in the world. As the sun rises in the east and the stars come out at night, we can be confident that the ocean waters will regularly rise and fall along our shores. God gave the oceans boundaries so they wouldn't destroy the land

- Job 38:10-11 When I fixed My limit for it, and set bars and doors; when I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, and here your proud waves must stop!'
- Tides are very long waves that move through the oceans in response to the moon and sun's gravitational (magnetic) pull plus the rotation of the earth. It is, however, the moon which has the greatest effect on the tides.
- Tides originate in the oceans and progress toward the coastlines. The highest part of the waves is called the crest and the lowest is the trough. The difference in depth is most obvious to us when the tides reach the coastline.
- Depending on the shape of the coastline and the shape of the ocean floor there will be one or two tides each day.
- Predicting tides is very important for navigating ships.

Cows

Cattle are domesticated mammals which include cows, steers, bulls and oxen which are generally used for either beef or dairy products. Our study today is concerned only with dairy cows.

- Cows wrap their tongues around the blades of grass. They pull them out by the roots eating both grass and roots
- Most cows chew at least 50 times per minute.
- They have four compartments in their stomach for digestion and are able to sleep while standing.
- When you read that a cow is "chewing her cud", she is ruminating (chewing) partly digested food which has been returned to the mouth from her stomach.
- They are only able to produce milk after giving birth to a calf.

- Cows produce about 90% of the milk in the world. Milk is used to make butter, cheese, yoghurt and ice-cream. .
- Generally, in a cow's lifetime, she produces approximately 200,000 glasses of milk
- To make one gallon of ice-cream, 5.5 kg (12 lbs.) of whole milk is required.
- An average milk cow weighs 635 kg (1400 lbs). In spite of their weight, they stand up and sit down 14 times a day.
- In soggy places, cows can outrun horses because horses have solid feet which tend sink down in the mire.

River Otters

The playful North American river otter is equally at home in the water and on land and makes its home in a burrow near the water's edge. It is different from the sea otter.

- River otters are members of the weasel family and hunt at night. Although fish is their favorite food, they will feed on whatever may be available.
- They swim by propelling themselves with their powerful tails and flexing their long bodies. They can run quite well on land but not as effectively as they swim.
- They have webbed feet and water repellent fur.
- They have nostrils and ears that close in the water.
- River otters remain active in winter. They use ice holes in the surface of the river to breathe.
- Males do not help raise young otters. Females retreat to their underground dens to deliver litters of one to six babies. Mother otters and offspring are often seen playing together. This is how she teaches them survival skills. When the young otters are only two months old their mother pushes them into the water so they can learn how to swim. With her supervision, they soon get the hang of it.
- They love to playfully slide down snow-covered, icy or muddy hills, often ending by splashing into the water
- The otters' habitat range has been greatly reduced by the increase in our population and urban development.
- They are very sensitive to environmental pollution.

These are three more examples of God's wonderful creation. God created ocean tides because they are essential. God made cows' stomachs with four parts to help them properly digest the grass and roots that they eat. God made river otters important predators of trash fish and to help the environment.

Why should we believe the Bible, God's Holy Word, is true?

- The most important reason why we should believe the Bible is God's Word is Jesus. God's only Son believed it to be true and He was with God from the beginning.
- Old Testament prophecies are detailed and accurate.
- Historical accuracy of the Bible
- Unity of the Bible
- The Bible has been very well preserved.

The Unity of the Bible

There is an amazing unity in the Bible from Genesis in the Old Testament to Revelation in the New Testament. Although written over a period of 1500 years and by 40 men who didn't know each other; the message is the same. The incredible harmony of the Bible is because it is the Word of God.

The Bible is the Word of God

Although all 66 books of the Bible were written by men, they were God-breathed (inspired by God). God influenced men, through the Holy Spirit, to write everything in the Bible. As God said to Jeremiah "I have put My words in your mouth" ..

- Exodus 20:1-3 And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. "You shall have no other gods before Me.
- Jeremiah 1:9 Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.
- 1 Corinthians 14:37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 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 Peter 1:20-21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

Creation

The entire story of creation is found in Genesis but also mentioned in Psalm, Matthew, John and other books of the Bible.

- Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth
- Psalm 121:2 My help *comes* from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.
- Matthew 19:4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning made them male and female,
- John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word (Jesus) and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Noah and the Flood

There was so much evil in the world during Noah's lifetime that God decided to send a flood to destroy not only mankind but also the animals He had created. God chose Noah to build a type of ship called an ark to save him and his family from the flood. Noah trusted and obeyed God even although he lived in a very dry area and had never seen torrential rain that could cause a flood. God gave Noah detailed instructions for building the ark which included its size, the number of storeys, the kind of wood to be used and the placement of a door and window. Noah warned his neighbours about what was coming. They did not believe what he said. They scoffed him and did nothing to prepare for the impending disaster. Only Noah's family of eight, along with two of each kind of animal that he brought into the ark, were saved to re-populate the earth.

- Genesis 6:5-8 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.
- Genesis 9:18-19 Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham *was* the father of Canaan. These three *were* the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

- Matthew 24:36-39 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.
- 2 Peter 2:4-5 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, . . . and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

Dividing or Parting the Waters of the Red Sea

Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt to the Promised Land. Shortly after leaving Egypt they came to the Red Sea, which they had to cross but there was no bridge. God told Moses to lift up his rod and to stretch out his hand over the sea. Then the water was divided so the Israelites could walk across on dry land. What a miracle! This story is told in numerous books of the Bible.

- Exodus 14:16 But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry *ground* through the midst of the sea.
- Joshua 2:10 For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who *were* on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed
- Psalm 78:13 He divided the sea and caused them to pass through; And He made the waters stand up like a heap. .
- Psalm 106:9 He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up; So He led them through the depths, as through the wilderness.
- Hebrews 11:29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry *land*, *whereas* the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

Jesus Died for our Sins

It was God's plan from the beginning, that He would send His only Son to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Our part is to accept His precious gift of salvation and to obey Him (believe that Jesus is the Son of God, repent of our sins, confess what we believe and be baptized or immersed for the forgiveness of our sins). Crucifixion is described in the Psalm 22 although this form of execution was not used at that time but God knew.

- Isaiah 53:5-7 But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.
- Psalm 22:16b-18 They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look *and* stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.
- Acts 2:22-24 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.
- Acts 2:37-39 Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?"³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

The unity of the message of the Bible cannot be argued. The accounts of these four stories were written many years apart but the message is the same - there are many more examples.

- Psalm 119:160 The entirety of Your word *is* truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.

Multiple Choice

1. The Bible was written over a period of how many years?
a) 1500 years b) 500 years c) 50 years
2. How many men were inspired by God to write the Bible?
a) 400 men b) 4 men c) 40 men
3. The author of the entire Bible is a) God, our Heavenly Father b) Moses c) Peter
4. When was the universe and everything else created by God? a) in the beginning b) it is continuous c) never
5. What did God tell Noah to build? a) a pyramid b) an ark c) a temple
6. How many people were saved in the ark? a) 12 people b) 3 people c) 8 people
7. Moses led the people out of Egypt to a) Europe b) America c) the Promised Land
8. God told Moses to lift up his rod and stretch out his hand to a) divide the waters of the Red Sea b) exercise c) pray

True or False

1. ____ The Bible is united in its message
2. ____ The Bible contains 66 books
3. ____ God said "I have put My words in your mouth"
4. ____ God divided the waters of the Mediterranean Sea
5. ____ Jesus died for our sins
6. ____ Moses built the ark
7. ____ The creation story is in many books of the Bible
8. ____ The book of Psalm describes crucifixion
9. ____ The Red Sea parted and became dry land.
10. ____ The Bible is also called the Word of God

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Please Complete the Following Verses

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