

I Believe the Bible Hebrews 2:1-4

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

The most important book you'll ever read is the Bible because it comes from _____. Today, we're exploring _____ to believe the Bible. No other book in the world _____ to the Bible! It contains a wealth of information that you _____ to know to live your life successfully and to have eternal life once this life is over. It gives _____ when you're uncertain, peace when you're troubled, comfort when you're hurting, advice when you don't know what to do, and the _____ when you're in doubt. The Bible nourishes the soul with the love and grace of God. Make the Bible your daily resource for an abundant life; it has the words of eternal life.

The prophet, speaking from God, said, "I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to _____ his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). God wanted to bless all humanity by giving them in written form His Words that would _____ them the truth about every spiritual matter. They could _____ about the God who created them, what He expected of them, and how to live a godly and loving life.

Trusting God's _____ is better than trusting feelings which are fickle or trusting your own intelligence. Sadly, many trust in themselves and _____ what God says. Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way which seems _____ to a man, But its end is the way of death." People tend to fool themselves, believing what they _____ about life and morals; but God's Word is tested and proved. Psalm 12:6 says, "The words of the LORD are _____ words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times." God's Holy Word, the Bible, will _____ you to salvation and eternal life.

Our reading today comes from the Letter to the Hebrews 2:1-4. This gives reasons to believe that the Word comes from God and how we ought to pay close attention to it.

Since the Bible is the Word of God, we ought to see something in it that _____ the divine, the supernatural. Many books _____ to be sacred; how do we know whether the Bible is truly from God? God revealed to Moses the _____ of a truly inspired prophet. **Read Deuteronomy 18:20-22.**

Predictive prophecy is truly a _____ that God is involved. Kenny Barfield, in his excellent book, *The Prophet Motive*, provided six reasonable criteria for assessing the _____ of predictive prophecy. Predictive prophecy should occur well in _____ of the fulfillment and should be accurate and conform to historical fact. The fulfillment should occur in an impartial manner and have no evidence of collusion or manipulation; it should be _____ to the reasonable person. Predictive prophecy should be dynamic. It must be ongoing, repetitive, and consistent. The prediction should also suggest supernatural guidance;

prediction based on _____ reasoning or genius is not sufficient.

It was J. Barton Payne who calculated that _____ percent of the entire Bible contains predictive prophecy. Norman Geisler, a scholar, observed that, “This is true of no other book in the world. And it is a sure sign of its _____ origin.” He added that, “The Bible is the only book in the world that has precise, specific predictions that were made hundreds of years in advance and that were literally fulfilled.”

The God of the Bible sets himself apart from all the man-made _____. He is the Creator not created. God can do what no one else can do. **Read Isaiah 41:31-24 where God sends a challenge to those who believed in a false religion.** God, unlike the false gods of ancient times, could tell the _____ and so prove He was truly God.

When we compare the Bible with other holy books and the writings of the _____ religions, we see a stark difference. Randolph S. Foster, a religious scholar, said, “No well accredited _____ is found in any other book or even oral tradition now extant, or that has ever been in existence in the world. The oracles of heathenism are not to be classed as exceptions. There is not a single one of them that meets the _____ required to prove supernatural agency, which every Scripture prophecy evinces.” D. James Kennedy agreed and wrote, “In all the writings of Buddha, Confucius, and Lao-tse, you will not find a _____ example of predicted prophecy. In the Koran (the writings of Muhammad) there is _____ instance of a specific prophecy—a self-fulfilling prophecy that he, Muhammad himself, would return to Mecca. This is quite different from the prophecy of Jesus who said that He would return from the _____. One is easily fulfilled, and the other is impossible to any human being.”

We examined several prophecies about Jesus, the Messiah, last week. Let’s look at some other prophecies. The Lord Jesus predicted the _____ in Jerusalem would be destroyed. He said, “Do you not see all these things? (Speaking of the temple.) Truly I say to you, not one _____ here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down” (Matthew 24:2). On August 30, 70 AD, the Roman army led by the future Emperor Titus marched into Jerusalem, burning the city and destroying the _____. The Arch of Titus, which celebrates the sack of Jerusalem and the temple, still stands in Rome. Talking about the fulfillment of that prophecy, Josephus, the Jewish historian, was present at the burning of Jerusalem. Though he was not a believer in Jesus, he reveals that the things spoken by Jesus and written in Matthew, Mark, and Luke are _____.

The Old Testament provides numerous _____ of proven prophecy. After the fall of Jericho, Joshua, about 1400 BC, prophesied that the city would be rebuilt, but at great _____. Joshua 6:26 says, “Then Joshua made them take an oath at that time, saying, 'Cursed before the Lord is the man who rises up and builds this city Jericho; with the _____ of his first-born he shall lay its foundation, and with the _____ of his youngest son he shall set up its gates.’” The fulfillment of this prophecy comes to pass in 870 BC. First Kings 16:34 says, “Hiel the Bethelite built Jericho; he laid its foundation with the loss of Abiram his first-born, and set up

its gates with the loss of his youngest son Segub, according to the _____ of the Lord, which He spoke by Joshua the son of Nun.” Because God is divine, He’s not restricted by _____. He can see the future as _____ as He sees the present. God’s omniscience, His all-knowing character, is clearly seen in Scripture.

One of the most specific Old Testament predictions identifies Cyrus of Persia long before he was _____. Isaiah 44:28 to 45:1, talks about “The Lord ... who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I _____’; he will say of Jerusalem, ‘Let it be rebuilt,’ and of the temple, ‘Let its foundations be laid.’ This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut.”

Isaiah made this prediction 150 years before Cyrus was _____. Isaiah lived between 740 to 690, about the time of 2 Kings 21 to 25, and Cyrus didn’t make his proclamation for Israel to _____ from exile until 536 according to Ezra 1. There would have been no human way for Isaiah to know the name of Cyrus or what he would do, unless God _____ it to him.

Daniel, who lived in the sixth century, predicted a succession of four great _____ in Daniel chapter 2:38-44. So precise and accurate is this prophecy that even critics _____ that Daniel spoke in order of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Daniel identified the first kingdom as Babylon in chapter 2 and gets even more specific about Medo-Persia and Greece in Daniel 8:20-21. Critics try to avoid the supernatural nature of this prophecy by claiming these words were written _____ the fact, in about 165 BC. But there is no real substantiation for this claim. Jesus, in the days of Rome, the fourth kingdom, set up a kingdom that would _____ be destroyed, the church! Jesus fulfilled a prophecy made 600 years before. Only God can do that!

Sometimes people _____ there are contradictions in Scripture. A classmate of mine in high school suggested this 50 years ago. He gave me a list of 17 alleged contradictions. In those days, I had few resources, but I found answers to these false claims by searching _____ into the language and context of each passage. Through the years, I’ve collected _____ that deal with discrepancies and difficulties, studied languages and historical backgrounds of passages. To this day, I have never found one _____ contradiction in Scripture. After dealing with biblical difficulties for more than forty years, Dr. Gleason Archer, a biblical scholar, said in the foreword of his *New International Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*: “There is a good and sufficient _____ in Scripture, Scripture itself, to refute every charge that has ever been leveled against it. But this is only to be expected from the kind of book that the Bible asserts itself to be, the inscripturation of the infallible, inerrant Word of the Living God.” Archer is right; scripture will _____ itself! I also highly recommend my friend, Eric Lyon’s two volumes, *The Anvil Rings*, published by Apologetics Press. Don’t fall for the idea that there are no answers to the _____ that people make against the Bible. Through the ages, critics have made all kinds of charges, but the Bible stands and remains the _____ of

all time, translated into more than 2,000 languages.

God has given us a great _____ in Scripture. He shares in Scripture His wisdom and promises of forgiveness and eternal life. The Scriptures _____ people to live lovingly, morally, and kindly. The story of the _____ calls us to give ourselves and serve with love. Christ calls us to follow His _____, and the Scriptures teach us how He lived and what He taught. Scripture teaches us right and wrong and how to live the _____ life. The Lord, through Scripture, calls us to an abundant _____ filled with grace and truth. Nothing could be nobler or higher.

David described what the teachings of God's Word are like, "They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is _____; In keeping them there is great _____" (Psalm 19:10-11). Did you know that Jesus challenges us to _____ His Words to see if they are from God? The Lord Jesus said, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me." (Speaking of God.) "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the _____, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself" (John 7:16-17). When people truly follow the teaching of Jesus, they find peace in their souls, joy in His promises, hope of eternal life, and grace to live each day.

The person who hasn't studied the Word of God has missed a precious _____.

Read Proverbs 2:4-12.

Some think the Bible is so _____ that it no longer matters, but the Bible is still relevant for many reasons. First, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and _____ for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be _____, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Second, just because it's old doesn't mean it's not for our time. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my _____ will not pass away."

The Bible addresses the most relevant _____: Where did we come from? Why we are here? What is important in life? What will happen when life is over? What is right and wrong? How do I treat my neighbor? How does God save us from sin? The Bible addresses everything that pertains to life and godliness. It provides _____ to live by and _____ of righteous living. The Bible introduces us to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who loves us and taught us how to love. The Bible is the most relevant and the wisest _____ you'll ever read. You'll cheat yourself out of great treasure by failing to _____ the Word of God.

God wants you not only to read His Word, He also wants you to _____ it. Place your _____ in Jesus Christ and _____ Him, _____ of your sins, and be _____ into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38). When you're baptized God will _____ you to His church and make you His child. Keep on studying and remaining _____ to the Lord all your days. Get involved in church and serve the Lord. Get started today!