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 L ORD 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. Randolf 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!