

# Christian Apologetics

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# Summary of Week 1 - 4

- We are commanded in scripture to always be ready to give a “defense” of why we believe in Jesus.
- We can know truth through observation and reason.
- God has revealed himself to us in “general” revelation.
  - Creation
  - Design
  - Moral Law

# Summary – Weeks 5 & 6: The Bible

- The history of the Bible (how we got it)
  - God's inspiration
  - Discovering the Canon
  - From Septuagint to Vulgate to King James to NIV
- Unless the New Testament is reliable, our faith is worthless since Christianity stands or falls based on a single event in history – the resurrection.
- Tests for reliability
  - Biographical Test
  - Internal Evidence
  - External Evidence
- ***Conclusion – the Old and New Testaments are reliable reproductions of the original manuscripts that have been passed down through the ages***

# Summary – Week 7: The Resurrection

- The story of Jesus is not a *legend*.
- The story of Jesus is not a *lie*.
- The story of Jesus is not an *embellishment*.
- Jesus' resurrection cannot be explained by alternative theories (Swoon, Stolen Body, Substitute, Zealot, Copy Cat)
- We have a reasonable belief in a real historical event. It is *more reasonable* than the alternatives!

## Summary – Week 8: Who is Jesus?

- The Deity of Christ is an understandable doctrine
- The Bible proclaims Jesus to be God
- Jesus claimed to be God
- Jesus' disciples proclaimed Him to be God
- Jesus was not a good moral teacher or something else
- Jesus proved his divinity by raising him from the dead (Acts 17:31)

**Week 9**



***... to the Scriptures***

# A Word About Translations

- Manuscriptus WellWrittenus (W)
- Manuscriptus SmallTypus (S)
- Manuscriptus Richardus (K)
- Manuscriptus Neatus (N)
- Manuscriptus Completus (C)
- “Hand #10”<sup>[1]</sup> contains both a<sup>[2]</sup> percentage<sup>[3]</sup> play for the declarer<sup>[4]</sup> and a psychological<sup>[5]</sup> ploy available<sup>[6]</sup> for<sup>[7]</sup> the defenders. The proper play is to lead a small card from south<sup>[8]</sup>. If no honor comes up from west<sup>[9]</sup>, play the King. (A) If it loses to the ace, return to the south hand via a different suit<sup>[10]</sup>. Lead a small card from south and insert the Ten<sup>[11]</sup>, finessing West for the Jack<sup>[12]</sup>. (This maneuver loses only when east<sup>[13]</sup> has both<sup>[14]</sup> the ace and the Jack.)<sup>[15]</sup>
- **Original Text:**
- *Hand No. 10* contains both a percentage play for the declarer and a psychological ploy available to the defenders. The proper play is to lead a small card from South. If no honor comes up from West, play the king. (A) If it loses to the ace, return to the South hand via a different suit. Lead a small card from South and insert the ten, finessing West for the jack. (This maneuver loses only when East has both the ace and the jack.)
- **83 correct words out of 84 = 98.8% correct**
- <sup>[1]</sup> Manuscripts vary widely at this point. C and W contain “*Hand #10*”, as do most other manuscripts. A popular alternate reading is “**10**”, present in N and S. Still others, including K, insert the additional words *An atlacs*, *In itallics*, or some variation thereof, before the start of the manuscript.
- <sup>[2]</sup> C omits *both a*
- <sup>[3]</sup> K, C, W, and approximately 50% of the extant manuscripts have %.
- <sup>[4]</sup> S, N, and a majority of the manuscripts have *declarer*; C, W, and K have variant spellings. Two manuscripts leave out “declarer, and a psychological ploy...”
- <sup>[5]</sup> Contained only in S and three other manuscripts; the majority abbreviate to *pschy.* or some variant. One manuscript reads *scycho!*
- <sup>[6]</sup> Present only in W and a few other manuscripts; the majority do not contain this word. Others have it abbreviated.
- <sup>[7]</sup> Or *to*
- <sup>[8]</sup> Sometime abbreviated S here and below
- <sup>[9]</sup> W and four other manuscripts abbreviate to *W*
- <sup>[10]</sup> S, W, and three other manuscripts have *suite*
- <sup>[11]</sup> Or *10*
- <sup>[12]</sup> C reads *insert a 10, finesing Jack*
- <sup>[13]</sup> Often abbreviated *E*; omitted in one manuscript
- <sup>[14]</sup> C omits *both*; 1 manuscripts reads *only*
- <sup>[15]</sup> Several manuscripts have quotes instead of parentheses.

# The Story So Far

- The New testament Scriptures are historically reliable.
- The teach of Jesus of Nazareth, a real historical figure, who died and then rose again.
- His claims to be God were validated by His resurrection.
- So... ***what did Jesus teach about the Scriptures?***



# Jesus' Teachings on the Scriptures

- The Scriptures are ***divinely authoritative***
  - Jesus uses the Scriptures as a source of truth against the devil
  - “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” – Matthew 4:4
- The Scriptures are ***imperishable***
  - “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” – Matthew 5:17
- The Scriptures are ***infallible***
  - Jesus portrays the Scriptures as the very truth of God
  - “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” – John 17:17
- The Scriptures are ***inerrant***
  - “Jesus replied, ‘You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.’” – Matthew 22:29

# Jesus' Teachings on the Scriptures

- The Scriptures are **historically reliable**
  - Jesus affirms Noah (Matthew 24:37-38) and Jonah (Matthew 12:40)
  - Jesus affirms Daniel as a prophet (Matthew 24:15)
- The Scriptures are **scientifically accurate**
  - Matthew 19:4-6, John 3:12
- The Scriptures have **ultimate supremacy**
  - “You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’” – Matthew 15:7-9
- **The primary job of the Scriptures is to point us to Christ**
  - “You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” – John 5:39-40

# Could Jesus Be Wrong About the Old Testament?

- Jesus didn't tolerate error in keeping with the Old Testament law (Matthew 23, John 2)
- Jesus' human nature does not allow for the possibility of mistake
  - Jesus did not know everything while He was on earth (Mark 13:32)
  - ...but what Jesus did know, He knew perfectly because He spoke what the Father gave him (John 8:28. 17:8)

# Who do You Trust?

- “My high school science teacher told me that much of Genesis is false. But since my high school science teacher did not prove he was God by rising from the dead, I’m going to believe Jesus instead.” – Andy Stanley

# What about the New Testament?

- Jesus **foretells** the coming of the New Testament
  - “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” – John 14:25-26, also John 16:12-13
- The New Testament is **built upon Christ** (Ephesians 2:20)
- The gospel message comes **directly from Christ** (Revelation 1:1, 1 Corinthians 2:10, Galatians 1:11-12, 1 Thessalonians 2:13)
- Paul quotes the Gospels as **Scripture** (1 Timothy 5:18) quotes Luke 10:7 and Matthew 10:10)
- Peter quotes Paul as **Scripture** (2 Peter 3:15-16)
- The book of Acts records **35 miracles**; Hebrews 2:3-4
  - Miracles are how God **validates a message**

# How can the Bible be Inerrant?

- God cannot err.
- The Bible is the Word of God.
- Therefore, the Bible cannot err.
  
- “If we are perplexed by any apparent contradiction in Scripture, it is not allowable to say, ‘The author of this book is mistaken’; but either the manuscript is faulty, or the translation is wrong, or you have not understood.” – Augustine

# Objections to Inerrancy

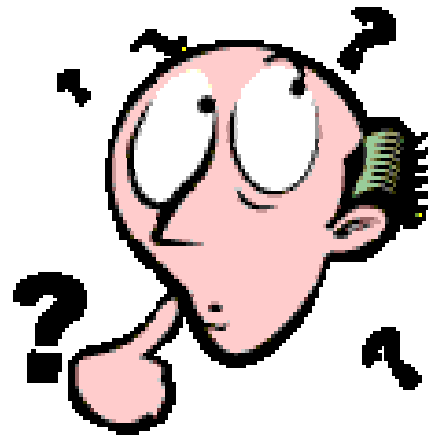
- **Assuming** the divergent accounts are contradictory
  - How many angels at the tomb?
  - Matthew doesn't say there was *only one*
  - The alternative? Exact copies would invite the charge of plagiarism!
- Failing to understand the **context** of the passage
  - “There is no God.” – Psalm 14:1b
  - Matthew 27:5, Luke 10:37b
- Presuming the Bible **approves** of all that it records
  - 1 Kings 11:13 records polygamy, but it doesn't approve of it
- Forgetting that the bible is a human book with **human** characteristics
- Assuming that humans err, so the Bible must err

# Conclusion

- Jesus taught that the Old Testament Scriptures are inerrant, and foretold the coming of the New Testament
- The Old and New Testaments both claim to be from God
- God cannot err, so the Scriptures cannot err
- The translations we have are trustworthy

# For next week...

What about...



The DaVinci Code?