

5. How do we know the Bible is true?

Well, Jimmie, suppose you did not know me at all. We had never met. And suppose I told you some things and claimed they were true. Is there any way you could test the accuracy of what I told you?

If you could tell me what will happen tomorrow or next month, and if what you say does happen, I'd certainly believe anything you say!

Yes, that's a good test. If a man can predict the future accurately, he ought to be listened to.

I see what you're leading up to. The Bible predicted the future and it happened as predicted. So I can be assured that other things it says are true too.

Exactly. The Bible has predicted the future ~~xxx~~ with a 100% accuracy, and that's a record no fortune teller or person with ESP can match. They are miss often, but the Bible never has.

Can you give me an example where the Bible predicted the future accurately?

One of the best examples has to do with all those prophecies of the first coming of Jesus Christ. There are at least 300 distinct prophecies about the first coming of Christ. These were written (so they could be easily checked for accuracy) from 400 to 1600 years before He came. These included things like when He would be born, where He would be born, how He would be born, the characteristics of His ministry, how He would die, where He would die, who would put Him to death, and, most amazing of all, that 3 days later He would rise bodily from the grave. All of these were fulfilled exactly as predicted, and that could never have happened by chance. Only God could do something like that, for His Word is truth. Now if the Bible has proved itself to be true in this testable area of fulfilled prophecy, ~~xxxxxxxhexsmrx~~ ~~itxix~~ ~~xrmex~~ that ought to give you confidence ~~xxx~~ to believe all that it says. You can trust the Bible. Read it and find out for yourself.

6. How can I conquer the fear of death for myself and my loved ones?

You know, this is a very honest question and a very common fear. Indeed, the Bible acknowledges that people do fear death. In Heb. 2:15 we read about those "who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." The fear of death does hold people in slavery.

What do you think are the reasons why people have this fear of death?

I think there are at least two: fear caused by the unknown and by uncertainty. The unknown haunts us with the question, where will we go after we die. What is it like. And uncertainty haunts us with the question, is my answer to the first question true. Even if I think I know what happens after death, can I be certain about it?

Does the Bible give us any answer to these questions?

It certainly does. God does not leave us in the dark about what happens at death. Believers in Christ go ^{to await the resurrection of their bodies. Then with Lord} immediately to be with the Lord in heaven. Unbelievers go to hades to await the resurrection of their bodies, but not to eternal life with God but to eternal existence in the lake of fire with the devil and his angels. Furthermore, we know from the Bible some things about heaven and hell so that we're not ignorant of what those ^{real} places are like. So no one needs to be ignorant about what happens after death.

But how can a person be certain that he will go to heaven and not hell.

The answer to that is in Heb. 2:14, the verse preceding the one I read a minute ago. Here we're told that Jesus Christ in His own death on the cross destroyed the power of the one who had the power of death, namely the devil. You see, death came into this world because Satan sinned and man followed him ~~xxx~~ in sinning too. Now if something or someone can break Satan's power, then we wouldn't have to fear death. And someone did--JC. How did He do it. Paradoxically, by dying Himself. His death breaks the power of death simply because He rose from the dead and showed that it can be conquered. Now all who believe that He died for their sins can be assured that ~~xxx~~ there is resurrection life after death. We can know the future, and we can be certain that heaven will be our future. So, while we might fear the process of dying, we need not fear death, because for the believer it ushers him into the very presence of Christ.

The question also asked, how can the fear of death be conquered for loved ones?

The answer is simple: lead your loved ones to Christ, and then there'll be no fear on their part or on yours because you'll know that they too will be in heaven.

