

September 20, 2020

“Preparing for the Journey”

“Pack Lots of Scripture” Core 50

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

A. Why should we pack lots of Scripture for the journey?

1. Because Jesus confirmed it!

“Then He said, ‘When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about Me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.’” Luke 24:44

2. Because scribes protected it!

Quotes from “The God Questions” Hal Seed pg 34-36

- It was written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- The Talmud (A.D. 100-500)
- The Massorettes (A.D. 500-900)
- The Dead Sea Scrolls – “When we compare the 100 B.C. scrolls to our ninth century manuscripts (a 1,000-year gap), we find that an amazing 95% of the tests are identical, with only minor variations.”
*Hal Seed
- The New Testament has 24,000 manuscripts to compare.

Other writings that seem to be accepted as reliable:

Author:	When Written:	Earliest Copy:	Time Span:	# of copies:
Caesar	100-44 BC	AD 900	1,000 years	10
Plato	427-347 BC	AD 900	1,200 years	7
Tacitus	AD 100	AD 1100	900 years	20
Thucydides	460-400 BC	AD 900	1,300 years	8
Herodotus	384-322 BC	AD 900	1,300 years	8
Aristotle	450-385 BC	AD 900	1,400 years	49
Homer (Iliad)	900 BC	400 BC	500 years	643
New Testament	AD 40-100	AD 125	25 years	24,000

3. Because time has preserved it!

- It is the single-most published book in the history of the world with over 6 billion copies printed.

- It is the single-most translated book in the world with over 2500 languages.
- It has survived bans, burnings, ridicule, and criticism. And, it still has the most original manuscripts.

“The Bible must be the invention of either good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God. Therefore:

- It could not be the invention of good men or angels, for they neither would nor could make a book and tell lies all the time they were writing it saying, ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ when it was their own invention.*
- It could not be the invention of bad men or devils, for they would not make a book which commands all duty, forbids all sin, and condemns their souls to hell to all eternity.*
- Therefore, I draw this conclusion, that the Bible must be given by divine inspiration.” –Charles Wesley*

B. We should pack lots of Scripture because it has equipped followers throughout time...

“Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself.” Ephesians 2:20

- Every book of the Bible was written by a prophet, an apostle (one who had been an eyewitness of the risen Christ), or someone with a direct link to one.
- The Bible is unique.
 - It was written over 1600 years.
 - It was written by 40+ authors.
 - The authors have different backgrounds.
 - It was written in 3 different languages, and from 3 different continents.
 - It is written with unmistakable continuity and agreement from cover to cover.
- Both Old and New Testaments speak truth.

Old Testament –

History Books: Genesis through Esther
Poetry Books: Job through Song of Songs
Prophecy: Isaiah through Malachi

New Testament –

History Books: Matthew through Acts
Letters: Romans through Jude
Prophecy: Revelation

“Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.” 2 Peter 1:20-21

C. We should pack lots of Scripture because it is reliable...

- The Old Testament predicted the coming of Jesus and was fulfilled in the New Testament.
- 322 prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus’ first coming.
- The probability that even 8 of these were fulfilled in one person is 1 in 10¹⁷. The probability of 48 of these fulfilled would be 1 in 10¹⁵⁷.

“Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received His message from us, you didn’t think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13

D. We should pack lots of Scripture because God wants to use it to speak personally to each of us...

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- S** – Scripture: Select a passage of Scripture and write down the main passage.
- O** – Observation: Read the passage with an open heart and Jesus will give you words of encouragement, direction and correction.
- A** – Application: Make personal application of the Scripture. Write how you will be different today because of what you read.
- P** – Prayer: Turn this thought into a prayer.

“Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive His approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

E. So, pack lots of Scripture for the journey...

“Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment,” 1 Peter 2:2

1. It will guide you through life.
2. It will change your view of this world.
3. It will change your values and ethics.
4. It will change your vocabulary.
5. It will change your view of eternity.

To begin a relationship with Jesus...

Text: I Choose Jesus to 88202

Next Week:

September 27: **“Preparing for the Journey”**

Core 51 Be Determined to Stick to the Course