

Inspired by God or Leather Bound Fables?

1. How does the book of Revelation describe the great controversy between good and evil?

Answer: Revelation 12:7-9 describes the great controversy as a supernatural war between God and Satan. The greek word for “*war*” is “*polemos*” which means “*strife, quarrel, dispute, argument, etc.*” Thus the great controversy between good and evil is not so much a physical fight, but a war of conflicting words, ideas, beliefs, and wills. God’s will vs. Satan’s will.

2. What is Satan’s main goal in the Great Controversy?

Answer: Satan’s main goal is to blind our minds from seeing the light of the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4). He does this by keeping us distracted with the things of the world. He also succeeds by crowding our lives with so much busyness to where we have no time to yield our minds to spiritual themes. Thus he keeps us in the darkness of ignorance.

3. What is God’s main goal in the Great Controversy?

Answer: God is also working trying to illuminate our minds and shine the light of His soul saving knowledge upon us. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

4. What is the light that God wants to shine into our hearts?

Answer: The sure word of prophecy is what God wants to shine into our hearts. God’s prophetic word helps us see our way through the darkness of the devil’s deceptions in these last days. (2 Peter 1:19, Psalms 119:105)

5. How can we know that the Bible is of divine origin and not human devising? What are seven reasons why we can trust the Bible?

- I. **The testimony of Internal Consistency** – Though the Bible seems to be one book, it is in reality a codex of 66 little books put together. These 66 books are divided into two testaments (the old and the new). It was written by over 36 different authors who lived on 3 different continents, from a variety of different backgrounds, over a period of 1,500 years. They wrote about the most controversial topic in the world: God and Truth. And yet with all these factors, we find that there is internal harmony and consistency in their writings. This is remarkable in light of the fact that there were no fax machines, conference calls, or emails in that time period. The harmony within the Bible gives us evidence that its message can be trusted. Where there seems to be contradictions, it lies within our own interpretation or understanding of the Bible. Not in the Bible itself.
- II. **The testimony of History** – Historical evidence verifies the accuracy of the Bible.
- III. **The testimony of Archeology** – Modern archeological discoveries such as the Dead Sea Scrolls continue to confirm the Bible’s historical accuracy and preservation.
- IV. **The testimony of Science** – The true study of the sciences such as biology, geology, cosmology, human anatomy and physiology, etc. continue to give evidence to support the claims of the Bible.
- V. **The testimony of Relevancy** – Though the Bible is an ancient book, it still speaks to the needs and concerns of man today. It is read by all classes of people and is still the best selling and most translated book today.

- VI. **The testimony of a Changed Life** – Unlike other books, the Bible not only can influence our thinking and change our behavior, but it has the power to completely transform our lives from the inside out!
- VII. **The testimony of Prophecy** – Fulfilled Bible prophecy verifies the truthfulness of God's word and it gives us confidence that the future is in His hands.

6. Who does God claim to be?

Answer: God claims to be the one and only true God. This bold claim implies that every other god is a false God. (Isaiah 46:9)

7. How do we know that the God of the Bible is telling the truth? What gives weight to this claim?

Answer: The true God knows the future before it happens and has revealed this to us in prophecy. Bible prophecy verifies the truthfulness of God's word and gives us evidence that God is who He says He is. (Isaiah 46:10)

8. Why is it that other "holy books" contain little or no prophecy?

Answer: The future must be known before it can be revealed. Therefore if there is little or no prophecy in other "holy books" it's because the authors don't know the future and thus are not divine. Many books have fragments of truth. But the Bible in its essence is the truth. Over 30% of the Bible's content is prophetic in nature. God has given us plenty of evidence for us to rest our faith upon.

9. What are the two classifications of prophecy?

- I. **Classical Prophecy** – Written primarily for the nation of Israel.
- II. **Apocalyptic Prophecy** – Written for the end of time.

10. What two books of the Bible contain apocalyptic prophecy in its entirety?

Answer: While there are apocalyptic (end-time) prophecies scattered throughout the whole Bible, the books of Daniel and Revelation are books that are entirely dedicated to end time prophecy. In order to be understood, these two books must be studied together. They are known as the Prophetic Twins of the Bible.

11. What will those who read the book of Revelation receive?

Answer: There is a three-fold blessing for those who read, hear, and keep the things that are written in it. (Revelation 1:3)

12. Is Revelation a closed or sealed book?

Answer: No, in fact it's an open book. The very title of this book suggests to us that it is not a closed or sealed book that is too mysterious to be understood. The root word of the word "Revelation" is "reveal". The Greek word for Revelation is "Apocalypses" which means to reveal or unveil. In the closing chapter of this book the Lord instructed John not to seal this book (Revelation 22:10). Satan has caused many to look upon Revelation as a scary book because he does not want us to study its contents. Remember, his main goal in the great controversy is to keep us in the darkness of his deceptions. But God wants to reveal some very important truths in the book of Revelation so that we will not be deceived.

13. Why was the book of Revelation given to us?

Answer: The primary purpose for the book of Revelation is to reveal Jesus Christ! It is not just a revelation *from* Jesus, but it is a revelation *of* Jesus! When studying this book in the light of Jesus' power, mercy, and grace, Revelation ceases to become a scary book. The secondary reason is to reveal the "*things that must shortly come to pass*", that is, prophecy. (Revelation 1:1)

14. Why does Jesus tell us what's going to happen before it happens?

Answer: In revealing the future to us, the Lord isn't seeking to satisfy our curiosity, or to inform our intellect. He reveals to us what is going to happen before it does, so that when it does happen, we might believe in Him (John 14:29). He is simply giving us evidence that He is a God that can be trusted. He desires for us to have a relationship with Him that is based on faith, love, and trust.

15. How did Jesus give to us the Revelation?

Answer: He signified it. He gave it to us in signs and in symbols. (Revelation 1:1, Hosea 12:10)

16. Why did God reveal the future in symbolic ways?

Answer: It was God's way of preserving the message from the enemies whom it would expose so they would not seek to destroy it.

17. What are the keys to unlock the meaning contained in the mysterious signs and symbols?

Seven Hermeneutical Principles to Understand Bible Prophecy...

KEY #1 – Revelation is built upon the solid foundation of the Old Testament scriptures.

The book of Revelation is a mosaic of scripture. Of the 404 verses in Revelation, over 274 are direct quotes, paraphrases, and echo's of the Old Testament scriptures. In order to correctly understand revelation, we must first understand the foundation of the Old Testament context. Ignoring the Old Testament context will result in a misinterpretation of the text. (2 Timothy 3:16)

KEY #2 – The Bible Interprets Itself

God has not left the sure word of prophecy for us to give our own private interpretations. For this word did not come from man but from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:19-21). God inspired more than one person to write down His messages. And because one man didn't give it, one man cannot explain it. But when we compare scripture with scripture we will discover that the Bible interprets itself. We must study the Bible contextually and comparatively "*Precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little and there a little.*" (Isaiah 28:9-10).

KEY #3 – Must pray for the guiding wisdom of the Holy Spirit

It is impossible for the natural carnal mind to understand the spiritual things of God (1 Corinthians 2:14). But the Lord has promised that the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth and reveal to us the deep things of God (1 Corinthians 2:10, 13, John 16:13).

KEY #4 – Must pray for a humble and teachable spirit.

Those who are wise and prudent in their own eyes will not be able to understand. But those who approach the Lord with humility, inquisitiveness, and teachableness as little babes will be able to understand (Matthew 11:25). The one who thinks he knows it all does not know what he does not know.

KEY #5 – Must seek for truth with ALL our hearts.

Surface readers of the Bible will not be satisfied. As the gold miner must dig beneath the surface of the earth to find the vein of gold, so to the diligent Bible student must dig beneath the surface of the word to find the treasures of truth. The reward of wisdom and knowledge comes to those who seek the Lord diligently with all their hearts. (Hebrews 11:6, Jeremiah 29:13, Matthew 5:6)

KEY #6 – Must be willing to do God's will.

In order to understand the teachings of God, you must be willing to do the will of God. (John 7:17) God imparts knowledge not simply to inform the mind but to transform the heart! The blessings of God are found in personal application of truth to our daily lives. We are to be doers of the word and not mere hearers only (James 1:22). The Bible must be prayerfully studied and practically applied to our life.

KEY #7 – Share with others what God has revealed to you!

God reveals truth to us not only for ourselves, but to share with others. We are to receive from Him and give it to others. As we do, God will trust us to give us more (Proverbs 11:25).

18. What can we expect as we use these 7 keys in our study of Bible prophecy?

Answer: We will know what the truth really is in an absolute sense and this knowledge will make us free (John 8:32). Free from what? From the dark deceptions and confusing counterfeits of Satan. We will also experience God's grace and peace in our lives (Revelation 1:4). As we experience the freedom, grace, and peace of God in our lives that comes from knowing His truth, we will be ready for His soon coming (Revelation 22:7).

19. What will happen when Jesus returns the second time?

Answer: He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, sorrow, crying, neither shall there be any more pain. (Revelation 21:4)

20. Do you desire to be on the winning team in the great controversy between good and evil?

Your Answer: _____