

## ***EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH –April, 2023***

Southview Bible Church \* 135 Bennett Ave. \* Council Bluffs, IA. 51503

Phone: (712) 322-5743 E-mail: pastor@southviewbible.org \* Web Site: www.southviewbible.org

### ***THE BIBLE – SUFFICIENT PROOF***

Want “proof” for God? Consider the Scriptures! There is no greater proof for God than what God Himself has revealed to us in the WORD OF GOD! It is living and powerful (Heb. 4:12). It is historically true; it is prophetically true; it is Spirit-enlightened true. In believing the gospel, the God who said, “Let there be light” (Gen. 1:3) shines the glory of His truth into our hearts (2 Cor. 4:6). The living Word of God is all-sufficient and self-authenticating in revealing to us all we need to know for salvation, sanctification, and service (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:3-4).

There seems to me to have been twice as much done in some ages in defending the Bible as in expounding it, but if the whole of our strength shall henceforth go to the exposition and spreading of it, we may leave it pretty much to defend itself. I do not know whether you see that lion—it is very distinctly before my eyes; a number of persons advance to attack him, while a host of us would defend the grand old monarch, the British Lion, with all our strength. Many suggestions are made and much advice is offered. This weapon is recommended, and the other. Pardon me if I offer a quiet suggestion. Open the door and let the lion out; he will take care of himself. Why, they are gone! He no sooner goes forth in his strength than his assailants flee. The way to meet infidelity is to spread the Bible. The answer to every objection against the Bible is the Bible. – ***Charles Spurgeon***

From the very first verse, the Bible assumes the existence of God (Gen. 1:1). Mankind is hardwired to know the truth of God as revealed in nature and the laws of nature (Rom. 1:18-20). Logic and reasoning interacting with general revelation point to the truth of God. However, God has ordained that salvation comes by way of SPECIAL REVELATION as found in the Bible. In the progressive revelation of God’s Word, God Himself reveals the most compelling evidence to believe in the one true God of the Bible as revealed most fully in the person of Christ.

### ***Bible Arguments for the Truth of God***

1. ***Creation:*** Creation itself powerfully testifies to the truth of a Creator (Ps. 19:1-6; Rom. 1:20).
2. ***The Flood:*** In rebellion people “willfully forget” the irrefutable truth of a universal flood as revealed in Genesis and evidenced in the worldwide fossil record (Gen. 6-8; 2 Pet. 3:5-6).
3. ***Israel:*** Israel is the ONE special God-chosen nation (Amos 3:2). Israel is uniquely God’s witness nation (Isa. 43:9-12). God uniquely identified with and revealed Himself through Israel in the Exodus and throughout Old Testament history (cf. Ex. 9:16; Deut. 4:33-35; Mal. 3:6; Rom. 9:17). Both the Scriptures and the Messiah were given through Israel. Track the history of Israel and you will track the revelatory footprints of God in the sands of time.
4. ***The Life of Christ:*** After His resurrection, Christ connected the prophetic dots of the Old Testament, showing how they all intersect and find their fulfillment in Him (Lk. 24:27, 44-48).
5. ***The Church:*** The Church is a historical reality that began on the Day of Pentecost as seen in Acts 2. The defining reality of the Church is Holy Spirit changed and empowered lives that center on the truth of the risen Lord (Jn. 13:34-35; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 3:1-6; Eph. 3:20-21).
6. ***Prophecy:*** In Isaiah 41:21-24 God challenges the “false gods” to bring forth and fulfill prophecy and thereby prove they are gods. It is God’s glory ALONE to prophesy truth and then bring it to pass (Isa. 42:8-9). The centerpiece of biblical prophecy is Jesus Christ.
7. ***Holy Spirit Enlightenment:*** Some claim that starting with the Bible and arguing for the truth of the Bible from the Bible is an invalid circular argument. But in doing so they leave out the reality of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is uniquely an inspired book understood only by the enlightenment of the Spirit (1 Cor. 2:14). The true believer has “the witness in himself” (1 Jn. 5:10; cf. 2:27; Rom. 8:16). God’s truth is known only by the Spirit of truth (Jn. 14:17; 16:13).

***Thot:*** The light of general revelation interacting with human reasoning is mere candlelight illumination in comparison to the brilliant midday “SONLIGHT” of God’s Word.

***Earnestly Contending, Pastor Dwight J. Oswald***