

“A Firm Foundation”

When the foundation of a building is unstable, the rest of the structure will crumble. But when the foundation is solid, the structure can withstand the violent storms. What then is the foundation for the Christian? Historically, the answer was readily given as the Scriptures. Unfortunately, in the minds of many, this foundation is now unstable.

But do not count me as one of those “many”. Instead, I offer three reasons why the Scriptures are reliable, namely, an eyewitness testimony, intertestamental agreement, and other authoritative references.

First, the Old and New Testament authors were eyewitnesses of most of the events they described. Moses participated in and was an eyewitness of the remarkable events of the Egyptian captivity, the Exodus, the forty years in the desert, and Israel’s final encampment before entering the Promised Land. In the New Testament, Luke, who wrote the Books of Luke and Acts, says that he gathered eyewitness testimony and “carefully investigated everything” (Luke 1:1-3). Peter reminded his readers that the disciples “were eyewitnesses of [Jesus’] majesty” and “did not follow cleverly invented stories” (2 Pet. 1:16).

Second, the intertestamental agreement refers to the ways the Old and New Testaments harmonize. Many of these prophecies would have been impossible for Jesus to deliberately conspire to fulfill — such as His descent from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Gen. 12:3; 17:19; Num. 24:21-24); His birth in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2); His crucifixion with criminals (Isa. 53:12); the piercing of His hands and feet at the crucifixion (Ps. 22:16); the soldiers’ gambling for His clothes (Ps. 22:18); the piercing of His side and the fact that His bones were not broken at His death (Zech. 12:10; Ps. 34:20); and His burial among the rich (Isa. 53:9). Jesus also predicted His own death and resurrection (John 2:19-22).

Third, Jesus and the apostles quote Old Testament passages with authority. New Testament authors quote each other. Peter references the writings of Paul, referring to them “just as the other Scriptures.” In Paul’s letter to Timothy, chapter 5, verse 18, he quotes from Luke’s gospel: For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages” (1 Tim. 5:18). In other words, the authors of Scripture highly esteemed the older writings of Scripture.

The reliability of the Scriptures matters greatly, for it makes stronger your conviction for the hope that is in you (1 Pet. 3:15). Yet, while these three evidences attest to the reliability of the Scriptures, the full persuasion of its truth is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit. Pray for the Spirit to fully persuade you that God’s word is truth (John 17:3). By His help, you can withstand the tempests with a firm foundation.

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