

WHY YOU CAN TRUST THE BIBLE

Note to the speaker:

Help the audience to appreciate that the Bible is inspired of God and is a practical and reliable guide provided for mankind. Emphasize how vital it is to adhere to what the Bible says in order to honor God and live a happy life

MANKIND NEEDS TRUSTWORTHY GUIDANCE (3 min.)

People everywhere seek guidance for many reasons

They want to improve their physical and mental well-being and to combat sickness and disease

Their desire is to improve their marriage and their family life

They seek help to make decisions about education, employment, financial matters, and a multitude of other things

Many turn to professional counselors and self-help books

For most the results are far from satisfactory because the guidance they get is usually based on very limited human experience or is not trustworthy

Millions from all ethnic, national, educational, and social backgrounds have found trustworthy guidance that really works

It has made them a peaceful, happy, and united people about whom one editorial stated: "Suffice it to say that if all the world lived by the [Bible] creed of the Jehovah's Witnesses there would be an end of bloodshed and hatred, and love would reign as king." (g93 12/22 13)

Jehovah's Witnesses trust in the Bible and firmly believe that it provides the best guidance in the world

WHY YOU SHOULD TRUST THE BIBLE (17 min.)

Most people who do not believe the Bible have never read it

If they would study the Bible, they would find that it is *always* accurate

Jesus Christ said that God's word, which is recorded in the Scriptures, is the truth (Joh 17:17)

Let us see why the Bible can be considered God's Word of truth

The Bible is historically and geographically accurate

Archaeologist Yohanan Aharoni wrote: "The Bible still remains the main source for historical geography of Palestine during the Israelite period. Its narratives and descriptions reflect their geographical environment as well as the historical events that took place. It contains references to some 475 local geographical names, many of them in contexts which supply pertinent details about the nature, location and history of the place." (g83 7/8 6)

The Bible is scientifically reliable

Although contrary views were held when the books of Job and Isaiah were written, what they say is scientifically accurate

Isaiah correctly referred to the earth as a "circle," or sphere (Isa 40:22)

The Scriptures also stated correctly that the earth hangs upon nothing (Job 26:7)

Unerring prophecies mark the Bible as a unique book

Some Bible prophecies had their fulfillment in the past

A remarkable prophecy fulfilled in the past is found at Daniel 8:3-8; 20-22 (w93 5/15 6)

Other Scriptural prophecies are undergoing fulfillment in this time of the end

One of many prophecies being fulfilled in our day appears at Revelation 17:3, 8-11, written some 1,900 years ago (re 246-8; 251-4)

The "scarlet-colored wild beast" began as the League of Nations, went into the abyss during World War II, and reappeared in 1945 as the United Nations

The seven heads represent the seven major powers that have, each in its turn, taken the lead in oppressing God's people

This Scriptural information does not, of course, authorize any form of disrespect toward governments or their officials

As true Christians, Jehovah's Witnesses show proper respect for governmental "superior authorities" (Ro 13:1)

Honest examination of the Bible clearly gives overwhelming evidence that it is God's Word and a reliable source of instruction and guidance

WHY YOU SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE BIBLE (20 min.)

The Bible is a 'lamp to our foot and a light to our roadway' (Ps 119:105)

A former student of law at a university in Spain stated: "The university taught me how to study; the Bible taught me how to live" (w94 9/15 27)

The Bible stresses proper values, as well as principles to live by, and it can make even inexperienced ones wise (Ps 19:7, 8)

It exhorts us to be calm, not jealous or quick-tempered (Pr 14:30; *w96* 2/1 31; 12/15 32)

The Scriptures advise us to be moderate in habits (Pr 23:20; 1Ti 3:11; Tit 2:2)

Although the Bible does not promise us perfect health now, it gives us courage to press on and endure in spite of health problems

A woman who continued to persevere in a lifelong battle against cerebral palsy, as well as bouts of depression, declared: "My health may continue to fail, but my trust in God and my relationship with him are my lifelines. How happy I am to be among Jehovah's people and to have his unfailing support!" (*w93* 6/1 31)

The Bible gives practical and workable counsel on how to resolve marital and other family problems

A schoolteacher in Zimbabwe, Africa, wrote: "My wife and I have learned through our hard experience that man's efforts to solve his problems independent of God are futile." (*g97* 4/8 32; *fy* 11)

If we follow the Bible, we will be faithful to our mate and thus avoid the anguish of a broken marriage (Pr 6:32, 33; Eph 5:33)

Because of complying with Bible standards, Christians pursue peace with all people (Ro 12:18; Heb 12:14)

Appreciating the Bible truth that God is not partial helps us to overcome racial and ethnic prejudice (Ac 10:34, 35; *g88* 1/22 27)

We learn from the Scriptures that we are not just some higher form of animal life but that we have the capacity of being spiritually minded (Mt 5:3; Col 3:16, 17)

Accurate knowledge of the Bible can lead us to a happy future

It gives us a real purpose in life, that of service to God

Grateful acceptance of God's Word enables us to have an intimate relationship with Jehovah, the Source of life, truth, and spiritual light (Ps 36:9; 43:3)

It brings us into joyful association with God's people (Ps 144:15b)

Bible truth gives us a life of purpose in Jehovah's service

LET THE BIBLE GUIDE YOU TO HAPPINESS AND TO LIFE (5 min.)

Recognize the Bible for what it truly is, God's Word (1Th 2:13)

Its counsel benefits us in every way

Scriptural guidance helps us to live a happy, purposeful life

The Bible provides guidance needed to cope with health problems, family difficulties, disasters, and other trials

It holds out a sure hope (Re 21:3, 4)

Above all, the Bible shows us how to serve Jehovah God acceptably (2Ti 3:16, 17)

By following God's sure guide, the Bible, and sticking with his people, you can enjoy eternal happiness (Pr 2:21)
(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited scriptures need be read or commented on)