

## I. THE WAR OVER TRUTH

- A. The Bible describes the last days as involving an intense spiritual conflict over truth, deception, and allegiance to God. While Scripture does not use the exact phrase “war over truth,” it repeatedly warns about widespread deception, false teaching, and people turning away from sound doctrine.
- B. There are repeated warnings from Jesus Christ, Peter the Apostle, and Paul the Apostle concerning a great deception regarding truth in the last days that would permeate not merely the world, but even parts of the Church itself.
1. ***“Take heed that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.-Mt 24:4-5***
  2. ***<sup>2</sup> Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. <sup>5</sup> But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.-2 Tim 4:3***
  3. ***<sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. -2Thess 2:9-12***
- C. The Bible describes a future global landscape in which humanity will seek to establish universal unity and self-governance apart from God, resulting in increasing hostility toward the authority of God, the person of Jesus Christ, and the absolute truth of His Word
1. ***Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Let us***

***break Their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us."-Psalm 2:1-3***

D. Satan, whom Scripture calls the father of lies, will intensify his deception in the last days by seeking to dilute and distort God's truth. His aim will be to lure parts of the Church away from biblical truth through a redefined view of Jesus, a distorted gospel, and a counterfeit Holy Spirit

1. ***<sup>4</sup>For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it! -2 Cor 11:4***

## II. EIGHT REASONS WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO BELIEVE THE RIGHT THING ABOUT OUR FAITH

### 1. TRUTH SHAPES OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

a) ***for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.-Heb 11:6***

### 2. TRUTH SHAPES OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

a) ***<sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.-Jn 14:6***

### 3. TRUTH IS FOUNDATIONAL TO TRUE WORSHIP

a) ***<sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup>God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."-Jn 4:23-24***

### 4. TRUTH UNIFIES THE CHURCH

a) ***Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." "That they all may be one.-Jn 17***

b) ***That ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you.- 1Cor 1:10***

**5. TRUTH PROTECTS US FROM DECEPTION**

a) *Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice – John 18:37*

**6. TRUTH SETS US FREE**

a) *If you continue in my word, then you are my disciples indeed; And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free- Jn 8:31-32*

**7. TRUTH AFFECTS HOW WE LIVE**

a) What we believe shapes our relationships, our morality, worship, worldview, decisions, how we spend our time, and our spiritual growth.

(1) *But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.<sup>3</sup> He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.-Ps 1:2-3*

**8. TRUTH DETERMINES OUR ETERNAL DESTINY**

(1) *<sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.-1Tim 2:3*

**III. 10 KEY ESSENTIAL BELIEFS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH**

1. The infallibility and inerrancy of scripture
2. The Trinity. (Monotheism)(Work of the Holy Spirit)
3. The virgin birth, Deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ
4. The sinfulness and fallen state of man
5. The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus
6. The Gospel as central to God's redemptive plan (includes the death, burial, resurrection, and return of Jesus Christ )
7. Salvation through faith alone
8. The Substitutionary Atonement of Christ (The Blood)
9. The necessity of the New Birth
10. The Return of Jesus and final judgment

#### IV. THE INFALLIBILITY AND INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE

- A. Believing that the Bible is the pure and authoritative Word of God is essential to the Christian faith because Christianity is founded upon God revealing Himself through Scripture.
- B. Without a trustworthy and reliable Bible, there would be no clear foundation for understanding who God is, who Jesus Christ is, the meaning of the gospel, how salvation is received, or how believers are called to live in light of these truths.
- C. It is absolutely essential to believe that the bible is both infallible and inerrant

##### 1. Infallible

- a) Infallibility means that the Bible is completely trustworthy and incapable of failing in its divine purpose.

##### 2. Inerrancy

- a) Inerrancy means that the Bible, in its original writings, is completely true and without error in everything it affirms. There are absolutely no contradictions.

*(1) The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God. -W.G*

#### V. HOW IS THE BIBLE DIFFERENT AND WHY SHOULD WE TRUST IT

##### 1. It claims divine inspiration

- a) The Bible uniquely claims to be inspired by God, not merely human wisdom.

*(1) <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. – 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

- b) Christians believe the Bible is God revealing Himself through human authors.

**(1) <sup>20</sup> *knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.-2 Peter 1:21***

**2. It was written over centuries yet tells one unified story**

- a) The Bible was written over about 1,500 years, by more than 40 authors, on 3 continents, in multiple languages. (Hebrew, Aramic, and Greek) yet it tells one unified redemptive story centered on Jesus Christ.

**3. It contains fulfilled prophecy**

- a) The Bible stands uniquely apart from other religious writings through its record of fulfilled prophecy confirmed throughout history, including Messianic prophecies concerning Jesus Christ, the rise and fall of kingdoms and nations, the destruction of the Second Temple, and even prophetic signs and global trends that many believers see unfolding in the world today.

**4. It has uniquely transformed lives and civilizations**

- a) Millions of people throughout history have testified to the Bible's transformative power in their lives. Its influence has also profoundly shaped cultures, nations, education, morality, and systems of law throughout the world.

**(1) <sup>12</sup> *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account – Hebrews 4:12-13***

**5. It reveals God's plan of redemption**

- a) Unlike ordinary books, the Bible provides a comprehensive revelation of creation, humanity's fall, the origin of suffering and evil, God's plan of salvation and redemption, the promise of eternal life, and the ultimate restoration of all things.

**6. Jesus treated it like God's very word**

- a) Jesus Christ consistently quoted and affirmed Scripture as authoritative truth. Throughout His ministry, He referenced and taught from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy—especially during His temptation in the wilderness—as well as the Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, and many other Old Testament writings.

(1) <sup>7</sup> ***"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. -Matt 5:17***

**7. It has endured thousands of years of scrutiny and criticism**

- a) The Bible has endured thousands of years of scrutiny, criticism, persecution, and intellectual attack while continuing to remain the most influential and widely studied book in history.

**8. It has extraordinary manuscript support**

- a) The Bible, especially the New Testament, has more manuscript evidence than any other ancient work, allowing scholars to verify its textual reliability with remarkable confidence.

**9. Backed up by archaeology**

- a) Archaeology supports the historical credibility of Scripture, but does not by itself "prove" spiritual truths such as salvation, miracles, or the resurrection.

- b) It confirms people, places, cultures, events, and customs mentioned in Scripture.

10. **It addresses humanity's deepest questions**

- a) The Bible uniquely addresses the meaning of life, morality, suffering, death, evil, purpose, forgiveness, eternity, and the nature of God.

**VI. THE DISCOVERY OF THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS**

- A. The Dead Sea Scrolls Discovery refers to a massive collection of ancient Jewish manuscripts that were accidentally discovered by a shepherd boy beginning in 1947 near Qumran, by the Dead Sea in Israel. The collection contains portions of every Old Testament book except Esther.
- B. The scrolls were written between approximately 250 BC and AD 70, and some manuscripts are more than 1,000 years older than the oldest Hebrew Bible copies previously available to scholars, greatly strengthening confidence in the preservation and reliability of the biblical text.
- C. **Why Were They Important?**
  - 1. Before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls Discovery, the oldest complete Hebrew manuscripts of the Old Testament dated to around AD 1000. The Dead Sea Scrolls pushed the manuscript evidence back more than a thousand years earlier, allowing scholars to compare copies of Scripture across an extraordinary span of time and confirming the remarkable preservation of the biblical text.