

Ancient Words Ever True

2 Peter 1:16-21

THE BIBLE

“It is full of interest.

It has noble poetry in it;

and some clever fables;

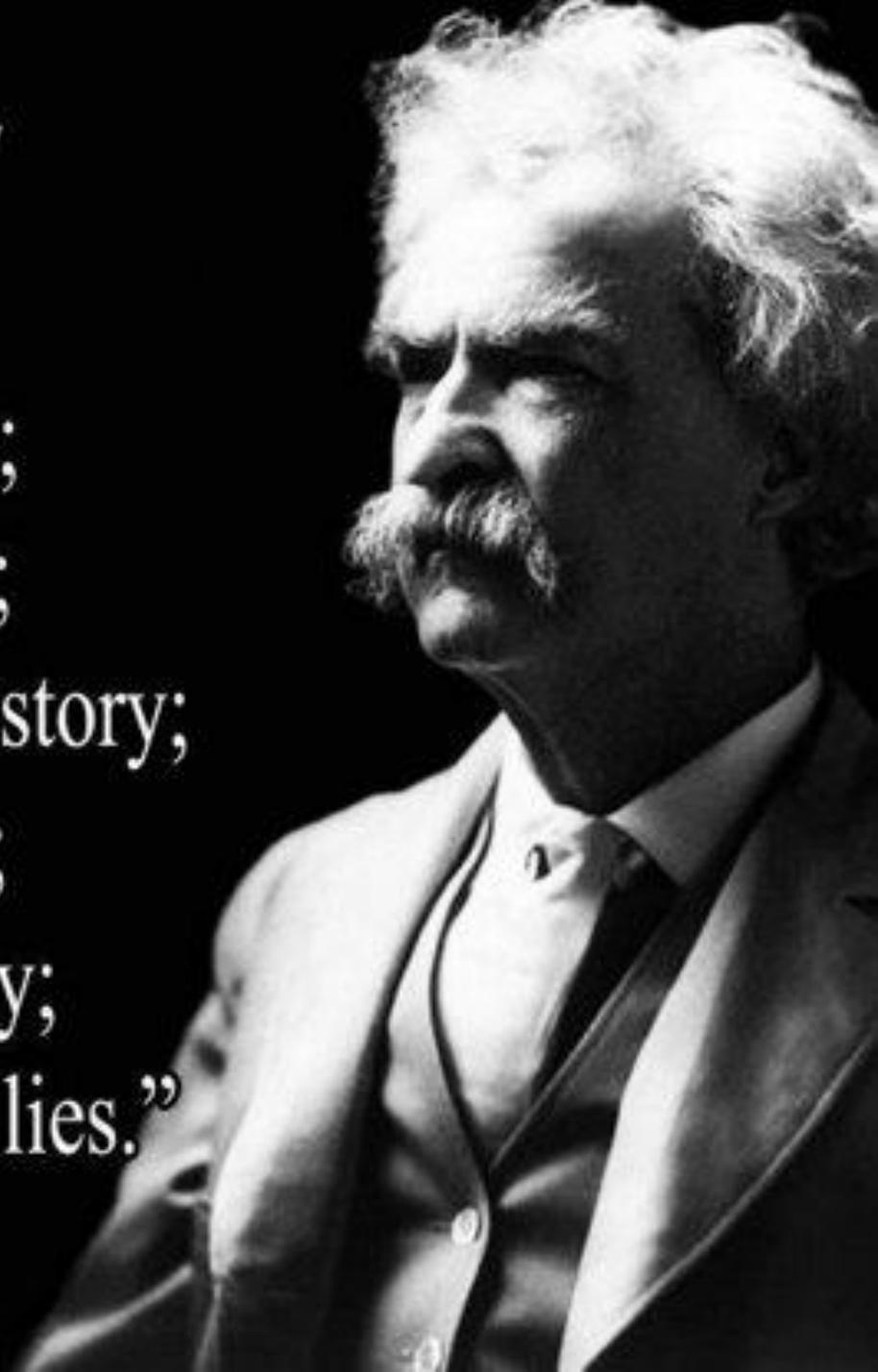
and some blood-drenched history;

and some good morals;

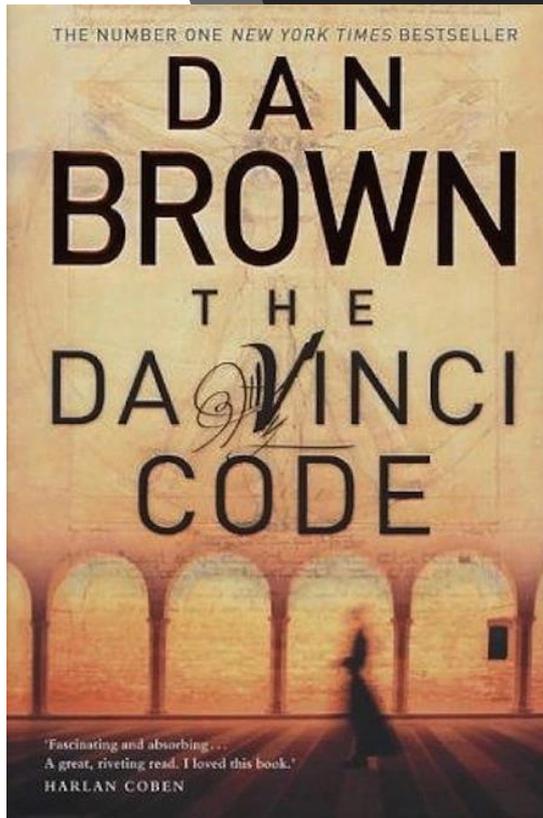
and a wealth of obscenity;

and upwards of a thousand lies.”

- Mark Twain



“The Bible is a product of man, my dear. Not of God. The Bible did not fall magically from the clouds. Man created it as a historical record of tumultuous times, and it has evolved through countless translations, additions, and revisions. History has never had a definitive version of the book...more than 80 gospels were considered for the New Testament, and yet only a relative few are chosen for inclusion – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John among them... the Bible, as we know it today, was collected by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine the Great.” p. 231



And Yet, Just Last Week...

2 PETER

We read that “God’s household” was “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.”

So, the Question is...

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE?



Matthew is called.

St. MATTHEW, 9.

Jairus' daughter raised.

11 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Whosoever drink to evil is poor souled.
12 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sin be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?
13 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, then saith he to the sick of the palsy, Arise, take up thy bed, and go into thine house.
14 And he arose, and departed to his house.
15 But when the multitude saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.
16 And as Jesus passed forth thence, he met a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom; and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose and fol-

lowed him.
17 And behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment.
18 For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.
19 For Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.
20 And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the multitude and the people weeping and wailing,
21 He said unto them, Give ye heed: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.
22 But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and she aro-

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CHAPTER 9.

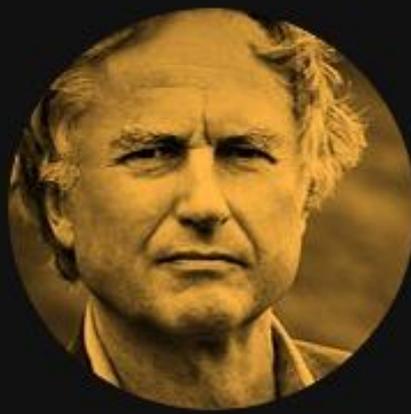
St. MATTHEW, 10.

his twelve apostles.

lowed him, and he raised her up, and she arose.
23 And he went forth, and came into his own country, and taught them in their synagogues, and they marvelled, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and such mighty signs as he doeth in his country?
24 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.
25 And he said unto them, I have here a proverb, which is written, We will praise thee, O Lord, thou art our God.
26 And he said unto them, I have here a sign, which is written, We will praise thee, O Lord, thou art our God.
27 And he said unto them, I have here a sign, which is written, We will praise thee, O Lord, thou art our God.
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“To be fair, much of the Bible is not systematically evil but just plain weird, as you would expect of a chaotically cobbled-together anthology of disjointed documents, composed, revised, translated, distorted and ‘improved’ by hundreds of anonymous authors, editors and copyists, unknown to us and mostly unknown to each other, spanning nine centuries”

~ RICHARD DAWKINS

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

The Main Verb in v. 16

2 PETER

“we made known”

ἐγνωρίσαμεν (*egnorisamen*)

The “we” in question are the apostles.

Again, as we learned last week, it is the teaching of the apostles that forms the foundation of the church.

The Apostles' Doctrine

2 PETER

- What it is NOT:

“cleverly devised *tales*”

μῦθος (*mythos*)

- Greek usage:

1. Mythology
2. Fables

Paul Uses It Negatively

2 PETER

- 1 Timothy 1:3-4 –

“As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to **myths** and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith.”

Again in 2 Timothy 4:3-4

2 PETER

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, **4** and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to **myths**.

Peter and the False Teachers 2 PETER

Opponents of the gospel are describing the apostolic teaching as mythical.

The fact that Peter uses “cleverly devised,” σεσοφισμένοις (*sesophismenois*) in the Greek, identifies their specific accusation:

The teaching of the apostles cannot be trusted because they are nothing more than mythical stories.

But Peter Says:

2 PETER

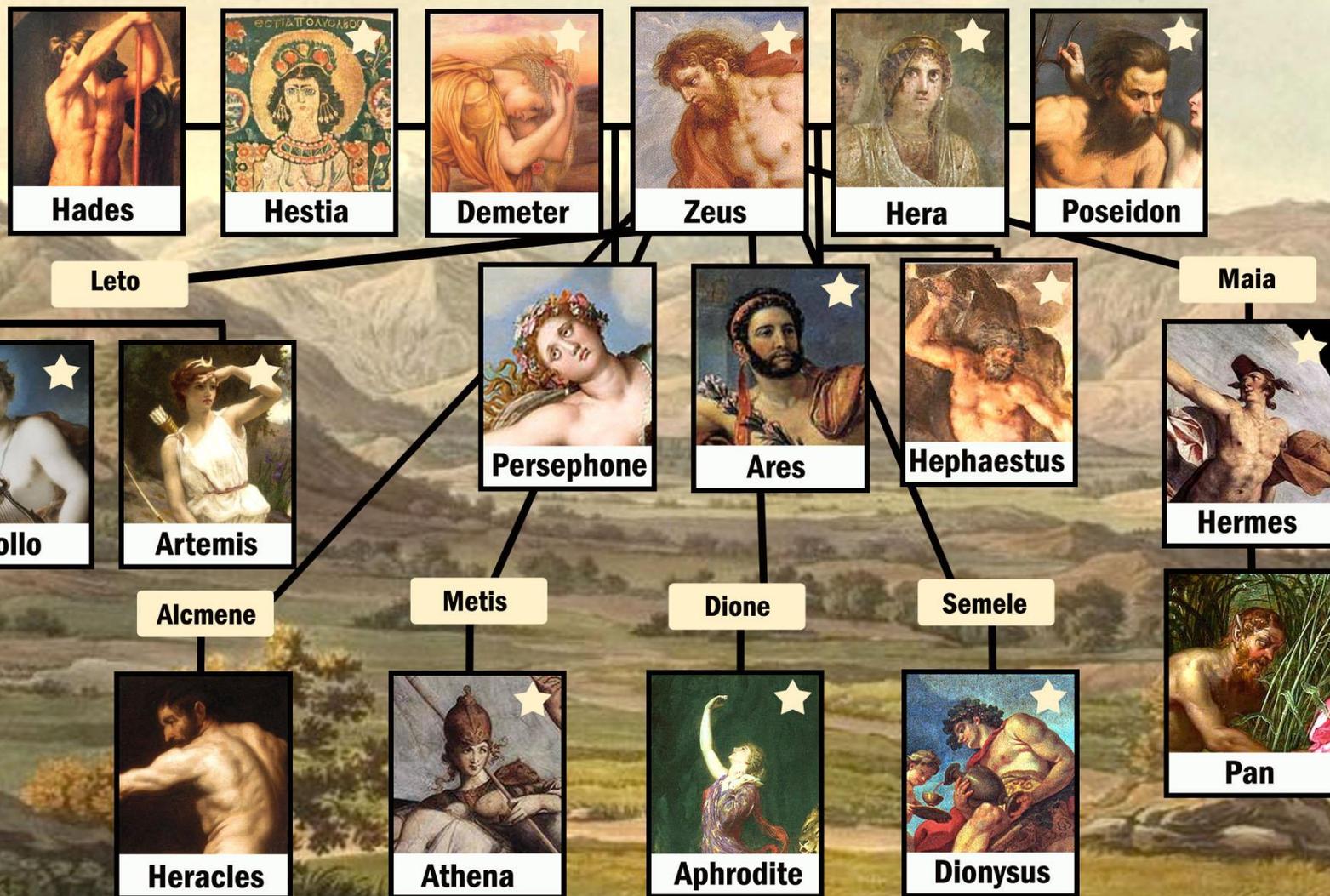
“we were eyewitnesses of His majesty”

This Changes Everything!

The Apostolic teaching is anchored in
history.

**Our Bible and our faith is unlike any
other that has ever existed.**

Greek Olympian Gods Family Tree



★ Primary Olympians



2 Peter 1:17-18

2 PETER

17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”— **18** and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

Not Only Did Jesus Claim It 2 PETER

The Apostles received confirmation from heaven from the Father, or as Peter describes Him here, “the Majestic Glory!”

What Event Are We Talking About?



Peter is an Eyewitness

2 PETER

He saw Christ glorified.

He heard the Father glorify the
Son.

He was there!

This is the Living, Breathing
Word of God.

What is at Stake Here?

FIVE
VIEWS
ON

BIBLICAL INERRANCY



J. Merrick, Stephen M. Garrett, general editors
Stanley N. Gundry, series editor

2 Peter 1:19

2 PETER

19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

“the prophetic word”

2 PETER

προφητικός λόγος
prophētikos logos

What is Peter Talking About
Here?

1 “Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.”

7 “I will surely tell of
the decree of the Lord:
He said to Me, ‘You are
My Son, Today I have
begotten You.’”



2 Peter 1:20-21

2 PETER

20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, **21** for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.



“The Scriptures”

**The Old
Testament**

Isaiah 46:9-10

2 PETER

9 “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’”

22 So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and **they believed the Scripture** and the word which Jesus had spoken.

1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, **2** which He promised beforehand through His prophets **in the holy Scriptures**

4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of **the Scriptures** we might have hope

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

2 PETER

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to **the Scriptures**, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to **the Scriptures**



Brace Yourselves... |

And At This Time:

2 PETER

Scripture was being
Produced through
the Inspired
Writings of the
Apostles.

1 Timothy 5:17-18

2 PETER

17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. **18** For the Scripture says,

“You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing,”



Deut. 25:4

and



Luke 10:7

“The laborer is worthy of his wages.”

2 Peter 3:16

2 PETER

15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, **16** as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of **the Scriptures**, to their own destruction.

1 Timothy 4:13

2 PETER

13 Until I come, give attention to the public reading of **Scripture**, to exhortation and teaching.

2 Statements on Scripture

2 PETER

1. From its outset, Christian theology recognized itself to be grounded in Scripture.
2. The development of the New Testament canon **BEGINS** with the writings of the apostles.

But Why The Apostles?

2 PETER

Because it had to be; they were given the ability from the Holy Spirit to recall accurately the words and deeds of Jesus and to interpret them rightly for subsequent generations.

- **John 14:26** –

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

John 15:26-27

2 PETER

26 When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, **27** and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

John 16:13-14

2 PETER

13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. **14** He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.



And Furthermore:

2 PETER

Apostles claim an authority equal to that of the Old Testament prophets, an authority to speak and write words that are God's very words.

- **2 Peter 3:2** –

“that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles”

The NT Canon

2 PETER

- As NT revelation was tied to the apostolic office (primarily) the disappearance of apostles and the apostolic office marked the end of the NT canon.
- At the end of the 1st century, the age of the Church Fathers begins, and their writings treat NT writings as authoritative.
- By the end of the 2nd century, every book except 3 John (which was in the Muratorian Canon) is quoted as “Scripture” in their writings.

That the NT
Canon was closed
by the End of the
1st Century?



Ignatius, *To the Romans* (A.D. 110)? PETER

“I do not order you as did Peter and Paul; **they were apostles**, I am a convict; they were free, I am even until now a slave.”



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The Big Question:

2 PETER

**Is The Bible Truly
The Divinely-
Inspired, Inerrant
Word Of God?**

If the Answer is “Yes”

2 PETER

- Then disbelief and disobedience of the Bible are disbelief and disobedience of God.
- Then the teachings of Scripture are not only true, but they are truth itself (John 17:17)—everything else must be measured according to Scripture.
- Then Scripture does not affirm anything contrary to fact; if it did, it could not be trusted, and therefore, God Himself could not be trusted.

The Bible is true because God is true.

Back to Peter

2 PETER

“we have the prophetic word made more
sure”

Why?

Because Christ has proven that His Word is
True.

**Peter says that he was an eyewitness to the
prophecy-fulfilling glory of God on the
Mount of Transfiguration.**

2 Timothy 3:16

2 PETER

16 All Scripture is
inspired by God and
profitable for teaching, for
reproof, for correction, for
training in righteousness



Dr. Al Mohler

**“Let us confess sola Scriptura and therefore submit ourselves before the truth of the Word of God, preaching, teaching, and applying that Word to all dimensions of life. Let there be no rival authority, and let us never apologize for our confession of the Scriptures—
inerrant, inspired, infallible, and unbroken—as our sole authority for knowledge and doctrine. Let us submit to no other authority, whether a pope, a self-declared prophet, or ubiquitous public opinion. We stand by the Word, even as we stand under the Word.”**



2 PETER