

“Truth or Consequences”

How many here remember the old television game show ‘Truth or Consequences’?

The show was a combination [trivia game](#) **and** [stunt show](#). Contestants were asked silly questions and had to answer correctly before "Beulah the Buzzer" sounded. If they failed to give the "Truth," they had to face the "Consequences"-- usually a funny and embarrassing stunt. Often contestants were reunited with long-lost family or friends on the air.

Well today we are going to introduce a series in which we look into real life Truth or Consequences. The Truth of G-d’s Word and the consequences of rejecting it. Only these consequences are not just a stunt and they certainly are not funny. However there is the hope of being reunited with long-lost family and friends, not *on* the air but *in* the air!

It is our hope that with this information you will develop a foundation for recognizing truth and the reliability of G-d’s Word.

Some of the topics we will be covering are;

[How We Got the Bible;](#)

[The Uniqueness of the Bible;](#)

[The Historic Reliability of the Tanakh](#) and

[The Historic Reliability of The B’rit Hadashah.](#)

We then will look at some of the popular criticisms of the Bible and offer a defense of these criticisms.

[After we have established a foundation for recognizing truth](#), we will take a look into several [competing world views or religions](#).

<PAUSE TO EMPHASIZE THE LOVE OF YESHUA>

We are not here to get into arguments with and/or over other religious beliefs and persons. We are here to strengthen our own faith and equip each other to fulfill our duty to declare the love of Yeshua and His gift to mankind.

Our desire is to help you be confident in your faith and to be able to refute the lies of the *ruler of this world*.

With a strong foundation of knowledge it is hoped that you will, with the love of Christ, reach out to those who are genuinely seeking answers to their spiritual questions.

Some of the beliefs that we hope to look into in the months to come are: Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Islam, Buddhism, Humanism, Witchcraft, Hinduism, New Age, Evolutionism, Postmodernism and others.

PART ONE: THE BIBLE

1. Introduction to Apologetics
2. The Uniqueness of the Bible
3. How We Got the Bible
4. Is the B'rit Hadasha (N.T.) Historically Reliable?
5. Is the TANAKH (O.T.) Historically Reliable?

1. Introduction

What is 'apologetics'?

Our purpose and attitude

2. The Uniqueness of the Bible.

Webster's defines the word "unique" as: (1). one and only; single; sole. (2). Different from all others; having no like or equal.

The Bible is unique in it's:

Continuity

Circulation

Translation

Survival

Through Time

Through Persecution

Through Criticism

Teachings

Prophecy

History

Character

Influence on Literature

Influence on Civilization

3. How we got the Bible.

How was the Bible written?

Materials Used

Forms of Ancient Books

Types of Writing

Divisions

Who Decided What to Include in the Bible?

Meaning of the word Canon ('ganeh' reed, cane, std)

Introduction to the Canon

Tests for Inclusion in the Canon
The Christian Canon (NT or B'rit Hadashah)
The Tanakh Canon (OT)

4. Is the B'rit Hadasha (N.T.) Historically Reliable?
 - Tests for the Reliability of Ancient Literature
 - Bibliographical Test of the New Testament
 - The Number of Manuscripts and
Their Closeness to the Original
 - Important New Testament Manuscripts
 - Accuracy of Manuscripts Supported by Various Versions
 - Accuracy of Manuscripts Supported by Lectionaries
(pg. 42 akin to weekly Torah portions)
 - Accuracy of Manuscripts Supported by Early Church Fathers
 - Internal Evidence Test of the New Testament
 - Did the Writer Use Primary Sources?
 - External Evidence Test of the New Testament
 - The Stones Cry Out: Evidence from Archaeology

5. Is the Tanakh (O.T.) Historically Reliable?
 - Manuscripts
 - Textual Transmission: How Accurate Was the Copying
Process?
 - Quality of Manuscripts
 - History of the Old Testament Text
 - The Dead Sea Scrolls
 - Non-Hebrew Manuscript Evidence
 - Archaeological and Historical Confirmation
 - New Testament Confirmation of the Old Testament

Included Scripture References for the Introduction:

CJB 1 Peter 3:15	NAS Acts 26:2
NAS Hebrews 11:1	NAS John 3:16
NAS Acts 10:38-43	NAS Ephesians 3:14-21
CJB 1 Peter 3:15	CJB Matthew 22:36
NAS Matthew 22:37	NAS Deuteronomy 6:4-6
	CJB Proverbs 14:18

Introduction: Understanding Apologetics

Back in August we discussed the First Article of the Rehoboth Statement of Faith in a study titled "Apology Accepted". It reads as follows:

“The Scriptures, both the TANAKH and the B’rit Khadashah, is G-d’s plan for salvation. That both, in their original language, are inspired of G-d and infallible and that both are relevant to our understanding of G-d’s plan for salvation.”

We used the following Scripture verse as a launching pad.

“But treat the Messiah as holy, as L-rd in your hearts; *while remaining always ready to give a reasoned answer to anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you- yet with humility and fear.”*

^{CJB} **1 Peter 3:15**

We then discussed the words ‘apology’ and ‘apologetics’. Let’s do a quick review of these.

APOLOGETICS – (from Greek *απολογία*, "speaking in defense") is the discipline of defending a position (usually religious) through the systematic use of reason.

The original Greek word for ‘**reasoned answer**’ is ‘**apologia**’ or ‘apology’. In our opening Scripture verse Peter is telling us to ‘apologize for our faith’ – or - **give an apology** for the hope we have within us.

APOLOGY - In the English language, the word apology is derived from the Greek word, but its use has changed; its primary sense now refers to a plea for forgiveness for a wrong act. Implicit in this is an admission of guilt, thus turning on its head the "speaking in defense" aspect of the original concept.

In the Classical Greek legal system two key technical terms were employed: the prosecution delivered the *kategoria* (κατηγορία), and the defendant replied with an *apologia*. To deliver an *apologia* then meant making a formal speech or giving an explanation to reply and rebut the charges, as in the case of the Apostle Paul when he employs the term *apologia* in his trial speech to Festus and Agrippa when he says "I make my defense" (Acts 26:2).

The proceeding studies will be ‘apologetic’ studies in which we will examine the data using systematic reasoning and then hopefully we will be able to present our case for having faith in Yeshua *with humility and fear*.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
NAS Hebrews 11:1

Quite often, it seems, when the topic of apologetics is brought up amongst believers, someone invariably will express that their faith in Yeshua is based upon a personal relationship with Him and is not based upon ‘book knowledge’.

I couldn’t agree more! But please, let me quote from a few noted apologists:

John Stott is an English Christian and Anglican Clergyman and a noted leader in the worldwide evangelical movement. In 2005 he was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time Magazine.

“We cannot pander to a man’s intellectual arrogance but we must cater to his intellectual integrity.”

Benjamin Warfield, was a Professor of Theology at Princeton Seminary (University) in the late 1800’s.

“We are not absurdly arguing that Apologetics has in itself the power to make a man a Christian or to conquer the world to Christ. Only the Spirit of Life can communicate life to a dead soul... But we are arguing that faith is, in all its exercises alike, a form of conviction, and is, therefore, necessarily grounded in evidence.”

Clark Pinnock, a Theologian, apologist and author. He was Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology at McMaster Divinity College.

“The heart cannot rejoice in what the mind rejects as false.”

<PAUSE FOR EFFECT – THEN THOUGHFULLY PRESENT>

We are to present the gospel of Yeshua:

"For G-d so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

NAS John 3:16

39 "And we are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. And they also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. 40 "God raised Him up on the third day, and granted that He should become visible, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us, who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42 "And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. 43 "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

NAS Acts 10:38-43

<THE GOSPEL, THEN OUR PERSONAL WITNESS>

We give our testimony of how Yeshua came into our life and transformed it.

We pray *for* them and offer to pray *with* them.

14 For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of G-d. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

NAS Ephesians 3:14-21

<AND FINALLY... APOLOGIZE FOR OUR FAITH>

We need to make ourselves available to answer their questions.

"But treat the Messiah as holy, as L-rd in your hearts; while remaining always ready to give a reasoned answer to anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you- yet with humility and fear."

CJB 1 Peter 3:15

<USING OUR MINDS>

A Pharisee once asked Yeshua: "Rabbi, which of the mitzvot in the Torah is the most important?"
CJB Matthew 22:36

And Yeshua replied: "You shall love the L-RD your G-d with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment.
NAS Matthew 22:37

I want to point out here that in the CJB David Stern uses the word 'strength' instead of 'mind'. The Greek word used is dianoa which means:

<1271> dia ,noia (dianoia)

Meaning: the mind, disposition, thought

Origin: from 1223 and 3539

Usage: mind(7), minds(2), thoughts(1), understanding(2).

I believe that David Stearn, realizing that this was a reference to the Shmah in Deuteronomy 6, used the text as it is written in the Torah, which is an understandable adjustment.

"Hear, O Israel! The L-RD is our G-d, the L-RD is one! ⁵ "And you shall love the L-RD your G-d with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
NAS **Deuteronomy 6:4-6**

However, even in the Shmah we are told to use our minds, our intelligence.

In the Hebrew, the word translated 'heart' is 'lebab' or 'levav' from the root lev which is heart.

<03824> bb'le (*lebab*) (523b)

Meaning: inner man, *mind*, will, heart

Origin: from an unused word

Usage: anger(m)(1), breasts(m)(1), conscientious*(1), consider*(5), heart(186), heart's(1), hearts(29), *intelligence*(1), intended(m)(2), *mind*(m)(8), purpose(m)(1), thought(m)(1), timid*(1), *understanding*(2),

G-d created us with the ability to think, to acquire knowledge, and to discern truth. G-d wants us to use our minds.

Thoughtless people inherit folly, but the cautious are crowned with knowledge.
CJB Proverbs 14:18