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How Do We Really Know

There is a lot of doubt in the world, especially when it comes down to religion and spiritual things. That doubt has led to a conclusion that we can't know anything for sure and because of that whatever anyone wants to do should be fine as long as they aren't hurting someone else. When it comes down to the Bible, and what God has to say, many who claim to be Christians do not accept it says. The creation, virgin birth, resurrection, flood, parting of the Red Sea and other things are just too fantastic to believe. That makes me dizzy sometimes. I just don't see how people can believe in a God whose book they don't trust. If God is able to speak worlds into existence then he is able to do the other things that are related in the scriptures. On the other hand, if the Bible is an overstatement of these things, then how, in the name of common sense, can we accept any of it? What parts are true, which ones are false. The apparent practice in accepting a belief appears to be twofold. We accept something as true because that is what our family or culture of origin believes, or, we accept something because we find it personally empowering. The Bible on the other hand reveals the nature of humanity rivaling hundreds of years of social and psychological discovery theory. The book of James alone reveals more in five chapters than an entire library of volumes on intrapsychic dynamics, saying the same things in fewer words and with more power. The writer of Hebrews talks about this aspect of God's word when he states, "***For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***" (Heb 4.12). This piercing nature is that which scares us, makes us think, and causes us to shy away from the stark reality of what the scriptures teach. Here are some other things to think about if you are in doubt about the validity of the word of God.

There is no other pagan religion or mythological system in the world that has survived from ancient times with the clarity and force of the Bible. Isaiah pokes fun at the attitude that some had when they created idols for themselves. "***He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it. Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto. He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god. They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand. And none considereth in his heart, neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten it: and shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?***" (Isa 44.14-19). How did they know that this idol represented a real power? They had less knowledge of this than what God supplied. There are others today, who, believing Christianity to be a failure, have turned to the inner man for guidance. Jeremiah states, "***O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.***" (Jer 10.23). The reason for allowing God to guide us is to reach the home that he has promised. There is no promise, and no home, if we reject God. What other god, spirit or force has revealed things such as God has? No one. There has been no revelation, not in comparison to the Bible. There are other things that point to the validity of the Bible in addition to this. Archaeologists have identified ancient sites based on descriptions found in the scriptures when other historical sources disputed their existence. The Bible has survived through the ages in spite of unbelief and persecution. If there was nothing to it, the very idea would have disappeared long ago. Many other ideas have gone by the wayside, but the Bible is not one of them. Who are you going to trust? The flawed claims of those who appear to know something but have not passed the test of time and opposition, or a book that passed through the fire of both and has not gone away? It seems that the choice should be obvious.

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