



**How We Know the Bible is From God
Archeology and the Historicity of the Bible
Luke 1:1-4
4 of 10**

Many of us read a certain passage of Scripture and say, "That's so regressive, so offensive." But we ought to entertain the idea that maybe we feel that way because in *our* particular culture that text is a problem. In other cultures that passage might not come across as regressive or offensive.

Let's look at just one example. In individualistic, Western societies, we read the Bible, and we have a problem with what it says about sex. But then we read what the Bible says about forgiveness—"forgive your enemy;" "forgive your brother seventy times seven;" "turn the other cheek;" "when your enemy asks for your shirt, give him your cloak as well"—and we say, "How wonderful!" It's because we are driven by a culture of guilt. But if you were to go to the Middle East, they would think that what the Bible has to say about sex is pretty good. (Actually, they might feel it's not strict enough!) But when they would read what the Bible says about forgiving your enemies, it would strike them as absolutely crazy. It's because their culture is not an individualistic society like ours. It's more of a shame culture than a guilt culture.

Let me ask you a question: If you're offended by something in the Bible, why should *your* cultural sensibilities trump everybody else's? Why should we get rid of the Bible because it offends your culture? Let's do a thought experiment for a second. If the Bible really was the revelation of God, and therefore it wasn't the product of any one culture, wouldn't it contradict every culture at some point? Therefore, if it's really from God, wouldn't it have to offend your cultural sensibilities at some point?



northeast daily reading

January 29, 2012



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Therefore when you read the Bible, and you find some part of it outrageous and offensive, that's proof that it's probably true, that it's probably from God. It's not a reason to say the Bible isn't God's Word; it's a reason to say it *is*. What makes you think that because this part or that part of God's Word is offensive, you can forget Christianity altogether? (Tim Keller, in the sermon [Literalism: Isn't the Bible Historically Unreliable and Regressive?](#), PreachingToday.com)

Our Daily Bible Reading for this week will begin a survey of Psalm 119 that is written about the Word of God.

- DAY ONE – Psalm 119:1-8
- DAY TWO – Psalm 119:9-16
- DAY THREE – Psalm 119:17-24
- DAY FOUR – Psalm 119:25-32
- DAY FIVE – Psalm 119:33-40

Memory Verse:

"I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws." (Psalm 119:30)



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