

Verse by Verse: Can an Intelligent Person Believe in the Bible?

By Louis T. Talbot

Mr. Sanders:

Now today as we begin this new series on the Bible Institute Hour, certainly we're living in a time of infidelity, rationalism, skepticism, modernism, and other forms of unbelief. The question is: can an intelligent person believe the Bible to be the infallible inerrant word of God? During the broadcasts for July, it's our purpose to use this radio time in considering the absolute authority of the inspired Word of God, and the significance of present world conditions in the light of the Holy Scriptures. I'm sure no one need tell you that we're living in one of the most momentous, tragic, uncertain periods of the world's history. The most outstanding of our nation's leaders during this time in which we're living dare not prophesy what a day may bring forth. However, we hold in our hands a book that lifts the veil which conceals from us the future; and makes known in no uncertain terms the significance of world affairs, as well as how this age will end governmentally, politically, religiously, and morally. Dr. Talbot, First of all to answer this one question: Is the Bible Old fashioned?

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

Well, Mr. Sanders first of all let me state that I am very, very glad that we are having a discussion on a subject of this kind. Because, I am coming in contact with many young men and young women, they tell me that they go to church and they believe in Christ, but they cannot believe the Bible to be the word of God. Now, you asked me whether the Bible is old fashioned.

Well, the Bible is indeed the most up to date book in all the world. The grass withers and the flower fades but the word of God abideth forever.

I want to give my own testimony on this. That what I am affirming here today and answering to your question is something that I have not always believed. There was a time when I put a big question mark over every page of The Word of God. But, those were the days when I did not know it. When I did not read it very much, and you know that, Mr. Sanders, I note that the folks who are having difficulty in believing the Bible to be the Word of God are the folks who very seldom read it. But, the Bible is the most up to date book in the world. It is a book that never grows old. It is eternal and yet it's ever new. Its messages of the ancient past are just as vital to the men of today as they were to the man of Moses' day. Even the most casual observer of our times who knows This book of books has recognized how in this present hour, the steady stream of world history, especially in Europe and in Asia, is fast running into the mold of God's prophetic message. And the casual student of the Bible is amazed to see how up to date the Bible is.

Mr. Sanders, We want our friends in radio land to hear what God has to say in regard to the why and the wherefore of this troubled world. We are also praying that God will use these broadcasts to bring conviction to many who do not know the Lord, as well as to give light and comfort to Christian hearts. We are not here to entertain, but to let the Holy Spirit speak through His word, both concerning this life and that which is to come. This He will do if we just open our hearts to His truth.

Mr. Sanders:

Course, Dr. Talbot, we are living in different days than you were living in, perhaps, when you grew up. Can this book be tested and tried in the light of all of the sociological developments and the biological developments in this time of rationalism, skepticism, and godlessness? Isn't this a different time in which we're living?

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

Well, Mr. Sanders, in this day of infidelities, skepticism, agnosticism, and modernism, to say nothing of godless indifference to the things of Christ. Our young people are often told that no intelligent person believes the Bible to be the infallible, inerrant word of God. This is one of the most subtle contentions of the hour. I am constantly come in contact with people young, middle aged, and old, who say that they cannot become Christians because they cannot accept the Bible as the word of God.

Professor James H. Lobau, of Bryn Mawr College, tells us in his book, *Belief in God and Immortality*, that he is sent questionnaires to thousands of leading psychologists and by, and physicists, and, and other men of knowledge and science are asking whether they believed in God and the Bible. The answers he received from these men were as follows: Sociologists: 14 percent believe the Bible to be the Word of God, and 86 percent denied. Biologists: 18 percent believed, 82 percent denied. Psychologists: 19 percent believed, 81 percent denied. Historians: 32 percent believed, 68 percent denied. Physicists: 34 percent believe, 66 percent denied. You know, Mr. Sanders, This is a tragic condition. The majority of these men, who train our young people, deny the Bible and immortality. No wonder Professor Lobau, whose later questionnaires sent to the senior class students of the universities where these prominent men taught, reveal that by far the greater number are the students are disbelieved in a personal God, in the Bible, and in

life after death. You know that America needs to get back to God and to the Bible. There never was a time when people had more reason to believe that the Bible is the word of God than those who are living in this present now.

Why do we make such a declaration? Why, because the sacred scriptures hold the only message of hope for sin weary, war torn, world. Because they have stood the test of the centuries, and because they stand the test of the so-called intellectuals in this in enlightened age. And God wants all of us to be intelligent Christians; He desires that we should be able to give a reason for the hope that is within us. And I trust, my dear friends that this discussion will lead many of you to be able to give such a reason when you come in contact with men and women who are having intellectual doubts. And let me say to the Christians who are listening to this broadcast this morning, that if you believe the Bible just because your mother or father taught you to believe it, if you have no other reason for believing it, then you will be an easy prey to the present hour skepticism. It is wonderful if you cling to the Faith of Our Fathers in just simple childlike faith. But, my dear friends, it is more wonderful if you know just how to point others to that faith and how others may know that what the Word of God, Teaches, That is the Bible, what it teaches is indeed the Word of the Living God. You know that God would have us to be intelligent Christians. And if you just believe the Bible because your mother told or taught you so to believe, while I would not underestimate the value of faith in your mother's God, you know I do not see how you can be assured, how you can be sure, that Christianity is right and Buddhism, and Confucianism, and other heathen religions are wrong. That is, they believe what they do because their parents just taught them so to believe. And if you just believe the Bible to be the word of God, and that Christ is the son of God, and that salvation is through His blood; Just because your mother taught you to believe, well, to say the least, my dear friends, that you

will have difficulty in getting others to come out of the maze of intellectual doubts in which they are subject today.

Mr. Sanders:

Dr. Talbot, I'd like to ask you on our next broadcast a question that was put to me the other day: Can we believe only what the Lord Jesus says in the Word of God, Or can we also believe, or must we also believe, what the apostle Paul, and the Apostle Peter, and the apostle James, and John, and all of the other Apostles said. But, I see that our time has gone and we're going to ask our friends to bow in a word of prayer, and will you lead us, Dr. Talbot, in these few moments?

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

And now God and Father, we want to thank thee for this blessed book. And we pray that thou will make us not only men of great faith, but men who are able to give a real testimony to people, and to give a reason for the hope that is within us. Make us Christians who have a hope that we know is true. We pray that they will abundantly use these discussions these mornings over the radio to help folks who are having difficulties in believing the faith of their fathers. In Christ name we ask all this, Amen and amen.

Now do you think we ought to have that; don't you think that I stumble on a little bit?

Mr. Sanders:

I mean you certainly didn't, great Scott, that was great. Uh see, 10:45. Let's just pick it up from there.

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

Did you stop that?

Mr. Sanders:

You know, Dr. Talbot, on our last broadcast you were talking about the fact that we should not accept the word of God, necessarily, just because our mothers and fathers believed it, nor necessarily because our churches tell us that it is true. But, we should believe it because in our own hearts we know that is true; because it has introduced us to the friend of friends, the Lord, Jesus Christ. I remember the other day were telling me that many people only want the Lord Jesus as the Omega, or the ending of their lives; They are ready to accept him at the end of life. But, many young people today are not willing to take Christ as the alpha, or at the beginning of their lives. Well, the other day I met a friend, a person that I've known many years. She's now about 83 years of age, and she has told me the fact that she could possibly believe what the Lord Jesus Christ has said, but she couldn't certainly believe what Paul, or James, or John, or any of the other Apostles said. And in the Word of God where it says all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, she says that's merely what Paul says, that's not what God says. Now, can we believe only what Christ said and do without these other books in the Bible, these other epistles that we find in the New Testament?

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

Well, Mr. Sanders, I would stand by the lady that you just quoted. I, too, believe what the Lord Jesus Christ said, and I would not believe in anything apart from what the Lord Jesus Christ

said. But, you know that that is the reason why I believe the whole Bible. That's why I accept the Bible to be the word of God from Genesis to Revelation, because of what the Lord Jesus Christ said about it. I believe the Bible to be the word of God because of the testimony of Christ to that fact. Surely, the Lord Jesus Christ should have some authority and final word to say in regard to this matter. I do not think that the lady that you referred to really knows just what the Lord Jesus Christ did say in regard to the Bible. You know, some time ago I was talking with a skeptic, and his remarks were similar and parallel to those that this lady made in your conversation with her. I was talking to this young skeptic, who said that he accepted the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, but he did not accept the words of Moses, or Isaiah, or Paul, or any other writer of the Bible. And I had the same experience as you had, because I quoted from Paul and from John. And he said, "Well John said that, but I want to know what the Lord, Jesus Christ said. And I will stand by Him." And I said to the skeptic as I held his hand I said, "My dear friend, Will you stand by that statement? Will you stand by that statement that you'll go along with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and that you will believe what He believes and you will walk in whatever direction He takes you?" And he said, "Yes, I will." Then I showed him that if he accepts the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, he must accept the whole Bible. For, the Lord Jesus Christ sets a stamp of approval and authority upon the entire Bible from the writings of Moses, right through to the Book of Revelation.

For Christ's endorsement of the Old Testament. I turned that young man to Mark Chapter 7 verse 13. And there you'll find that immediately preceding this verse Our Lord Jesus had quoted from the Law of Moses. And then, in verse 13, He told the unbelieving Jews that they were making the Word of God of none effect by their miserable tradition. Then I pointed to him I said, "Now look here Jesus. He is talking about the writings of Moses; Genesis Exodus,

Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. And then He says ye make the word of God of no effect by your miserable traditions. Here Christ says positively that the Law of Moses is the word of God. He made the same, same declaration in Matthew 5 verse 18 where He says this, "till the heaven and earth pass, one jaunt all, or one tittle shall in no ways pass from the law, until all be fulfilled." I said to that young man, I said, "Do you see that if you're going to go along with the words of the Lord Jesus, then you must believe Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy?"

Then I said to him, "the Lord Jesus quoted from Abraham as having said to the man in torment, concerning his five brethren. And this man in torment said to the Lord, 'send, and send my messenger to my five brothers that they do not come into this place'. And Jesus said this, 'if they he and not Moses and the prophets, neither they persuade, be persuaded though one rose from the dead'." My friends, what an emphatic endorsement of the Old Testament That statement of the Lord, Jesus Christ is. Our Lord's statement to the Jews, recorded in John, chapter 5 verses 46 and 47 is most emphatic. Jesus said "had ye Believed Moses, you would have believed me. For he wrote of me. But, if you believed not his writings, how shall ye believe my word?" If you accept, my dear friends, the words of the Lord, Jesus Christ, you must believe in the writings of Moses, for the son of God set His stamp of authority upon them.

Then, I pointed, pointed out to this young man that our risen Christ bore testimony to the divine inspiration of all the Old Testament. He was walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus after His resurrection from the dead. And, you'll remember, that he opened the scriptures to the two believers as they walked by the way. It was a wonderful Bible lesson. and we read in Luke chapter 24 verse 27 that the Lord Jesus said to those two men on the way to Emmaus, beginning at Moses and all the prophets He expounded unto them in all the scriptures those things

pertaining to Himself. And then later He appeared unto the ten disciples, showing them His hands and His feet; and He ate before them in order to prove to them that His resurrection body was real. And then He said unto them, "These are the words which I spake unto, you while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms concerning me". Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures. and thus, you see that the Lord, Jesus Christ, set the stamp of His authority not only upon the writings of Moses, but also upon the entire Old Testament scriptures; making them in every way equal to his own words, that is, Moses' writings were as truly from God as were the Lord Jesus' own words and teaching. It is an established fact, as I pointed out to this young man, that the Jews refer to the Old Testament scriptures in the three fold division used by the Lord Jesus: the Law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms. And if we accept the authority of the Lord Jesus, we must therefore accept the authority of the entire Old Testament Scriptures as being the inspired word of the Living God. It was complete. You know, about four hundred years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, have Malachi, the last of the Old Testament writings, finished his prophecy in 397 BC. You see, Mr. Sanders, that when I got through, the skeptic was not sure as to whether he wanted to accept everything that the Lord, Jesus Christ, said because he recognized just where that would lead him. He'd have to believe all of the Old Testament, from Genesis to Malachi.

Mr. Sanders:

Dr. Talbot, you have given us a good definition of why the Lord Jesus referred to those books of the Bible, from Genesis to Malachi, but perhaps on our next broadcast you will discuss for us the New Testament. I am sure that there have been many critics who have put various

views upon books of the New Testament written by some of the apostles. But because of our time we're just going to have to wait until our next broadcast to consider that. Let's bow in a word of prayer. Our gracious Father, thou has told us in thy word that the Bible is a lamp unto our feet and a light under our path. And in these days when we have so many uncertain steps, we pray that Thou will guide us right from Thy holy word. Bless these broadcasts; encourage the hearts of parents who have young people in colleges and universities where Thy word is not revered. We pray that we may prepare our young people as they go out into the world, so that they may hold fast and firm to these things which are precious to us and which reveal the very oracles of life and of God. This we ask in Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

Yeah well how was that?

Mr. Sanders:

Very good. This is a, this is, I don't know why we haven't done this before. This is a good series.

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

Now do you see now where this is number three now, isn't it?

Mr. Sanders:

And I'll begin by just asking you about the New Testament you just pick.

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

Yeah. When you give an outline you see. Now when I get older [audio trails out].