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Defending the Faith

Lesson 2— My Bible

I. What God Claims that His Word Is

*We must realize that it is either ALL true, or NONE of it is true

A. INSPIRED by God; the words of God (**II Timothy 3:16**)

B. POWERFUL; It convicts people's hearts (**Hebrews 4:12**)

II. How Did it Come Together?

A. Old Testament

*Jewish leaders, inspired by God, put together inspired writings of God (**II Peter 1:20-21**)

B. New Testament

1. Most books were written between 45 AD and 100 AD

2. By 150 AD, the books/letters by several followers of Jesus (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter, and Jude) are accepted by the first Christian churches

III. It's Inerrancy (Accuracy)

A. It Must Be Historically Accurate

1. Historical artifacts have always proved Biblical stories, but has NEVER disproved
*over 5,000 places in the Bible have been discovered

2. The Bible uses NUMBERS and GENEALOGIES proven to be accurate

3. Fulfilled specific PROPHECIES (if any were unfilled, the Bible would be false)
***Deuteronomy 18:21-22**

a. Prophecies of Christ (we will discuss in a later lesson)

b. Prophecies of nations, kings, battles, cities, and Israel

4. As more ancient copies of the Bible are found, they confirm the accuracy of the Bible

5. Historical writers wrote about Biblical events

B. It Must Be Scientifically Accurate

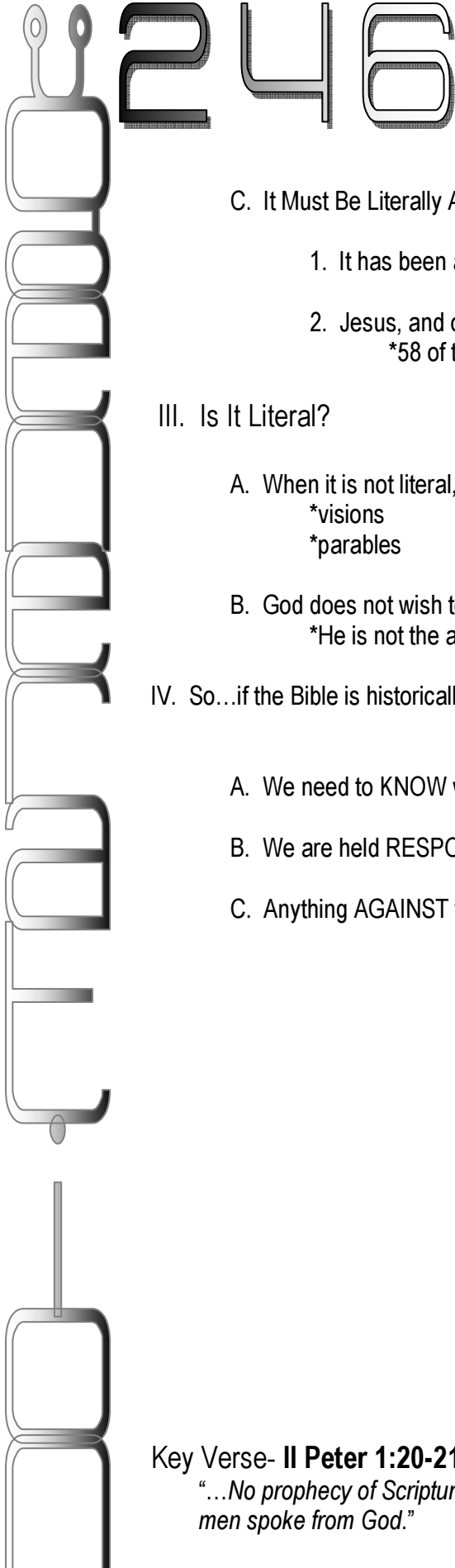
*Earth is round (**Isaiah 40:22; Job 26:7**)

-1,000 years before Columbus

*Hydrologic Cycle: evaporation, then rain (**Job 26:8; 36:27-28**)

*Life is in the blood

-during a time when blood was thought to be bad



C. It Must Be Literally Accurate (does it contradict itself?)

1. It has been around for over 2,000 years
2. Jesus, and other NT writers often quoted the OT
*58 of the 66 books were quoted in the NT

III. Is It Literal?

- A. When it is not literal, it uses obvious figures of speech (Isaiah 55:12), or it says so
*visions
*parables
- B. God does not wish to confuse us
*He is not the author of confusion

IV. So...if the Bible is historically, scientifically, and literally accurate and we believe the Bible to be literal...

- A. We need to KNOW what is in it
- B. We are held RESPONSIBLE for the things that are in it
- C. Anything AGAINST the Word of God is WRONG

Key Verse- II Peter 1:20-21

"...No prophecy of Scripture comes from one's own interpretation...instead, moved by the Holy Spirit, men spoke from God."