

The Truth Project
Pt 6 "The History of Truth"
Isaiah 46:9-11

"What is truth?" How do you know who's telling the truth?

For example: Politically, how do you know who to believe? Everyone tends to believe the candidate from their particular political party and disbelieve the candidate from the other party. But are we really so naive as to believe any politician is always telling the truth? How do you know who's telling the truth?

What about TV news shows? It used to be that the news media would present the news with objectivity, without bias, void of personal opinion. But now a-days most media outlets have an obvious "position" or "opinion" on just about every subject covered. How do you know who's reporting the whole truth?

In the arena of religions, how do you know what or who to believe? Most major religions have many things in common, but they also have some critical contradictions in their basic theologies. Who's right and who's wrong? How do you know who's telling the truth?

Let's take a look at our key verses this morning and see if we can glean some insight as we discuss the history of truth.

Isaiah 46:9-11

9 Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.

10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.

I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

11 From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose.

What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.

There are reasons to believe that God has a history of telling the truth!
We're going to discuss some of those reasons this morning.

The first thing I want to point out is a fundamental, historical truth about our faith: there is only one God.

1. There is only ONE God.

Nowadays, this is not a popular opinion, but it is the truth: There are not many Gods. There is only one God. There ARE many false gods. There are many counterfeit gods. There are many imitation gods made up by individuals and religious groups. But there is only one TRUE God.

Look at our key verses: notice the important phrase in verse 9:
Isaiah 46:9, "...I am God, and there is no other..."

Historically, the Bible teaches that there is only one God.
Look at a few other verses from the Bible:

Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one."

Isaiah 45:5 "I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God."

Not many, but one. Not several, only one. Not two. One.
There is absolutely no historical proof of any other God.
There is absolutely no evidence of any other God.
There is only one God.

Jesus taught this same truth:
Mark 12:28-29

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.'"

A. The teaching of Jesus Christ is monotheism, not polytheism.

Jesus said that this is the most important thing to understand. One God, not many Gods. Yes there are other religions, but they worship false Gods. They worship God's that do NOT exist : They never have, they never will. There is only ONE true God!

Look at what else Jesus said about this:
John 17:3 "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

The Apostle Paul wrote,
1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

There is only one true God and He is not known by a bunch of other names.

B. God rejects the names of false gods.

One great misconception is that everyone worships the same God, they just use different names in referring to God.

However, this is in direct contradiction to Biblical teaching. Look specifically at what God has said about this issue:

Exodus 23:13 "Be careful to do everything I have said to you. Do not invoke the names of other gods; do not let them be heard on your lips."

Do NOT invoke the names of other gods. That would of course include Baal, Buddha, Allah, Mohammed, Confucius, Zeus, or anyone else.

Deuteronomy 5:7 & 9

7 You shall have no other gods before me.

9 You shall not bow down to them or worship them;

God has made this very clear:
Deuteronomy 32:39 "There is no god besides me."

Jesus addressed this issue. One example:
Matthew 4:10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

There is only ONE God. He is the Lord God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and when He reveals Himself in human form, He is called Jesus the Christ.

Isaiah 42:8 "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols."

The Name of the Lord is critical. It is not interchangeable with false Gods.

Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

You can't call on false names of God. You must call on the name of the Lord!
Doesn't that help you to better understand the importance of Jesus' statement:
John 10:30 "I and the Father are one."

One God! The first of our key verses says that there is one God. It also says the He has proven Himself in the past.

2. Proven in the past.

God has a track record!
The history of truth reveals the reality of God's existence.
Anyone who is willing to do an honest study of history will find evidences of God's existence.
Unfortunately, most look at history with preconceived conclusions.
Either they already believe in God or they already don't believe in God and thus there is no objectivity in their evaluation of history.

Nonetheless, God calls on the truth of history to substantiate His claims.
Look again at the first of our key verses:

Isaiah 46:9 "Remember the former things, those of long ago...."

What former things is He talking about?
Last week we talked about creation giving evidence of God's existence.

This week, let me give you another example:

A. God's involvement with Israel substantiates His existence.

In addition to creation, God's interaction and involvement with the nation of Israel gives evidence of his existence. One example along this line is when he delivered them from slavery in Egypt.

The entire nation of Israel were held in bondage by the Pharaoh in Egypt and God miraculously delivered them through a series of events.

One of the biggest of those events was when the first born child in each home in Egypt died. However, the angel of death "passed over" the homes of the Israelites if they had sacrificed a lamb and put the blood of the lamb on their door posts.

God asked the nation of Israel to remember this event:

Exodus 12:14 "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD — a lasting ordinance."

Exodus 12:24-27

24 Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants.

25 When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony.

26 And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?'

27 then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.'" Then the people bowed down and worshiped.

God wanted them to remember because the historical truth about his existence is proven in the past.

God has a track record of involvement with the nation of Israel.
That's what your Old Testament is all about.

Romans 15:4 "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

God has a track record, a history of involvement in the lives of his followers which substantiates his existence.

Our key verses offer us more historical evidence of this truth:

3. Proven through prophecies.

God also offers his prophecies as evidence that prove that He is who He says He is. He says that the history of his prophecy fulfillment proves the Truth of the reality of His existence.

Prophecies aren't something you can fake. Either they happen or they don't. Either they come true or they don't.

Throughout the Old Testament God predicted through the prophets things that would happen to the nation of Israel, and they happened. Over and over and over again.

That's what he's talking about in our next key verse:
Isaiah 46:10 "I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, WHAT IS STILL TO COME."

He predicted when an enemy would come and destroy a town or even carry the entire nation off into captivity.

He predicted when they would face a drought and when it would rain at the end of a drought.

He predicted when the army would be victorious and when the army would lose.

The list goes on and on.

In every situation, in every circumstance, God's prophecies ALWAYS came true.

The historical record of His prophecies prove His existence and His power.

This same truth is expounded upon in the New Testament:
Romans 15:4 "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

And it's not just limited to Old Testament fulfillment. There were also many prophecies about the Jewish Messiah which Jesus fulfilled. A couple of examples: His place of birth His name His family lineage (of the lineage of David) That John the Baptist would precede Him His family's flight to Egypt while He was an infant. The type of death He would die. That the soldiers who crucified Him would gamble for His clothes.

Some scholars have listed over 300 prophecies which Jesus fulfilled. How's THAT for a historical record of truth?!

Look at what Jesus said about this:
Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

God has a track record, a history of fulfilled prophecy. So, what's the big picture? God is in control!

4. God has a plan

The bottom line on all of this, the most important thing we learn from all this, is that God has a plan. And the history of truth about God strengthens our faith in Him.

Isaiah 46:10-11

10My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

11What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.

History is not just some out of control juggernaut heading for some disastrous culmination.
History is not just some random series of events hurtling toward a totally unknown ending.
God has a plan. God is in control.

Psalms 33:11 "The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."

You can be comforted in the fact that history is unfolding exactly as God knew it would.
Maybe we don't understand it, maybe we don't "get it", maybe it seems out of control to us....but it isn't.
God has a plan. God is in control.

Isaiah 14:24 "The LORD Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand."

Proverbs 19:21 "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."

That's good news! Now here's the even better news!!
The fact that God has a plan is true of history in general, it's true of humanity in general, it's also true of you specifically.

Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Are you seeking God's plan for your life?
Have you united with the Lord in His purpose for your life?
It all begins when you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.