

### **Recap of 3/15/20 (1 Thessalonians 2:13):**

1. The acronym U.F.A.C.T.S. covers the six lined of evidence for the reliability of the Bible: Unity & consistency, Fulfilled prophecy, Archaeology, Canonicity, Transmission, & Self-testimony.
2. Concerning Unity and consistency, Hanegraaff writes, "The Bible was written over a span of 1600 years by 40 authors in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek) [and on three different continents: Europe, Asia, and North Africa], on hundreds of subjects. And yet there is one consistent, noncontradictory theme that runs through it all: God's redemption of humankind." What explains that consistency? The Compact Guide explains: "...yet it is one book with one message because God inspired every writer."
3. Concerning Fulfilled prophecy: "The Bible records predictions of event that could not be known or predicted by chance or common sense....It is statistically preposterous that any or all of the Bible's specific, detailed prophecies could have been fulfilled through chance, good guessing, or deliberate deceit....Clearly, statistical probability concerning biblical prophecy is a powerful indicator of the trustworthiness of Scripture." (Hanegraaff)  
- "...there are in the Old Testament 332 distinct predictions which were literally fulfilled in Christ" (Hamilton).
4. Concerning Archaeology as a proof of the reliability of the Bible: "On the whole...archaeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the scriptural record. More than one archaeologist has found his respect for the bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine. Archaeology has in many cases refuted the views of modern critics. It has shown, in a number of instances, that these views rest on false assumptions and unreal, artificial schemes of historical development. This is a real contribution and not to be minimized" (Dr. Millard Burrows, Yale University). "Thus far, no historical statement in the bible has proven false on the basis of evidence retrieved through archaeological research." (Keith N. Schoville)
5. If you would like to dig deeper into the reliability of the Bible, I recommend the following resources:
  - Answering the Tough Ones** by David DeWitt
  - A Survey of Bible Doctrine** by Dr. Charles Ryrie
  - Evidence that Demands a Verdict: Updated & Expanded** by Josh & Sean McDowell
  - Christianity in Crisis** by Hank Hanegraaff (especially the Appendices)
  - A General Introduction to the Bible: Revised & Expanded** by Geisler and Nix
  - The Know series (Know what..., Know Why..., Know Who You Believe** by Paul Little