



Books in Review

TAKING A STAND FOR THE BIBLE

by John Ankerberg and Dillon Burroughs
Harvest House Publishers, 222 pages, \$12.99

It often has been said that the Bible is like an anvil which, over the centuries, has been pounded and beaten by hammers of disbelief and objection. Yet it stands undamaged, while the critics' hammers crumble. John Ankerberg and Dillon Burroughs' latest book helps the reader understand why the Bible has stood up over time.

While not an exhaustive treatment of the subject matter, Ankerberg and Burroughs provide a terrific synopsis in each chapter, which should spur the reader to deeper study. Here are some of the topics:

- Biblical inspiration — and why it is crucial to hold to the verbal, plenary, and clear components of divine inspiration.
- The five rules of how the New Testament books were accepted (or canonized).
- Guidelines for handling perceived contradictions and errors in the Bible.
- Ten key facts that support the reliability of the contents of the New Testament.
- The necessity of complete — or full — biblical inerrancy and the fallacy and danger of the idea of limited inerrancy.
- Statements in Scripture that have been affirmed by modern science.
- Seven key teachings about Jesus Christ which make Him unique among all other religious leaders.
- How archaeology affirms the truthfulness of the Bible by confirming as accurate its descriptions of events, places, and peoples.

The importance of archaeological evidence is stressed as the authors observe: "the fact that Luke has been established as such a careful writer means that fully one-fourth of the entire New Testament, on the basis of his accuracy alone, bears the same marks of authenticity. It was also this same careful historian, the physician Luke, who reported that Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead 'by many convincing proofs' — and that

he carefully investigated the evidence for this from the beginning (Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3)" (pg. 147).

Two modern Bible-related issues are also examined in the book. The first of these contemporary subjects is a review of and response to the King James Only controversy, the belief that the KJ version of the Bible is the only legitimate and trustworthy English translation of Scripture. The second is an analysis of and answer to Bart Ehrman and his best-selling book, *Misquoting Jesus*. The neo-orthodox Ehrman argues that we cannot know what the original New Testament Scriptures said because they were changed over the early centuries of Church history.

Incorporated within the pages of the book are several charts and informational sidebars (e.g., "Interesting Facts about the Bible," pg. 15 and "A Sampling of Jesus' Fulfillment of Messianic Prophecies," pp. 82-83). The layout and content of this publication make it a wonderful source from which to draft Sunday school or Bible study lessons about the important and essential aspects of Scripture.

The book draws extensively from various Christian scholars, including several of those interviewed by Ankerberg for his award-winning television broadcast. Included are such notables as Dr. Norman Geisler, Dr. Gleason Archer, Dr. Gary Habermas, Dr. Darrell Bock, and Dr. Daniel Wallace. However — in this reviewer's opinion — there were a couple scholars who would have been better left unquoted: Dr. Craig Blomberg (pg. 97) and Dr. N.T. Wright (pp. 164, 167, 189). Blomberg, in his book on Mormonism (*How Wide the Divide?* co-authored with Latter-day Saint Stephen Robinson), has stated that the biblical texts were subjected to a process similar to that which yielded changes or corrections in successive editions of Mormon scriptures. And Wright is a major conduit through which the new perspective on Paul teaching (i.e., we have seriously misunderstood the Apostle Paul regarding salvation by faith alone) has entered the evangelical Church. Despite all the commendable scholarship by these two men, Blomberg and Wright should now be used with caution and qualification, if at all. What is brought into *Taking a Stand for the Bible* by these men could have been drawn from other competent and respectable sources.

Notwithstanding the above personal caveat, *Taking a Stand for the Bible* is a great primary resource for any Christian from which to draw "remarkable evidence that affirms the Bible's integrity and reliability."

—MKG

Editor's Note: The publications featured in PFO's *Books in Review* section are available from **Personal Freedom Outreach** (P.O. Box 26062, Saint Louis, Missouri 63136). Please add \$2.50 to the price listed for shipping and handling. Due to occasional price changes by the publishers, the retail amounts listed are subject to change without notice. These publications are also available to those who help to financially support the work of PFO. Please see our funds appeal flyer for details.